



Cambridge HOUSING Chronicle compiled by Mike Petty

Rattee & Kett history – feature – 88 04 28a

Cambridge Brickworks on Newmarket Road – memories of Hilda Swann – 89 03 16c

1888

1888 04 20

Huntingdon Road estate - 21 acres of building land newly sold 1888 04 20 [3.15]

1891

1891

Building strike for 22 weeks brings intimidation & reprisals [1.6]

1892

1892 12 16

Plan of new De Freville estate published 1892 12 16 [1.25]

1895

1895

Brignell builders founded 76 07 29 [7.11]

1898

1898

Blinco Grove building 81 10 01[446.9.4]

1899

1899 07 17

A fatality occurred today. The scene of the accident was the new stores being erected in Burleigh Street, Cambridge for the Co-operative Company. The outer walls have been built up and the workmen are engaged on the interior. One scaffolder, named Thomas Filby, aged 60, was engaged on the scaffolding erected above the top floor. He fell sheer into the basement on to a heap of broken

brick. Before he lapsed into a state of utter insensibility he was heard to murmur, "It's all up" - 1899
07 17

1901

1901 02 18

An outbreak of fire occurred at the works of the Cambridge Brick Company, situated between Coldham Lane and Newmarket Road on the outskirts of the densely populated district of Barnwell. The fire attracted large crowds and the flames, aided by a gentle breeze, spread rapidly, soon mounting in the air a distance of about a hundred feet. In just over two hours everything had yielded to the flames and all that remained was the damaged and broken parts of the valuable machinery. Fortunately the conflagration was confined to the corrugated iron roofed wooden building covering the machinery or the entire works could easily scarcely have escaped destruction CDN 1901 02 18

1902

1902

Death of Francis Thoday, builder [1.7]

1902 08 21

Sir – Is Cambridge becoming overbuilt? As one looks around it is palpable that many of the recent erections of new houses is hardly the result of demand, but of speculation. Its effect must be the deterioration of older properties, and wasted energy and capital in the newer. The census shows the population to be moving slowly and the demand for new properties correspondingly small. To see a town dotted over with properties "to let" has a dispiriting effect to strangers and residents alike, and more especially to those whose capital must be sunk in them – Observer CDN 1902 08 21

1902 08 25

The growth of the population in Cambridge is not keeping pace with the building of houses and in various parts many houses are constantly empty. But the absence of overcrowding is in the highest degree beneficial, not only to public health, but to the public morals as well. The housing problem is one of the most difficult of the day and the proportion of income which has to be paid as rent by artisans in the neighbourhood of London is so great as to make the problem of obtaining sufficient food almost insoluble. It is to be hoped that such a state of things will never exist in Cambridge CDN 1902 08 25

1903

1903 08 04

Cambridge Borough has had its pride wounded by the London Express charging it with having incurable slums and possessing filthier homes than Whitechapel. In reply Mr Campkin, a Guardian said: "There is no doubt there is an amount of poverty and squalor in Cambridge but there has been a vast improvement in the St Matthew's district over the last 40 years. There is evidence of the effects of drink in some parts of the town but in the Romsey and Petersfield district the residents are respectable working people". Commenting on the Cambridge slums Dr Roper said: "I think even the very worst are fast becoming demolished; take St Peter's Court, Castle Street, they are pulling that down. In consequence that there are large families in the poor quarters a woman very often has to go out and work as well as her husband to keep things going, and they can't keep their houses quite so clean as they otherwise might. In New Street you will not see much dirt or dilapidation, though in summer time the people are sitting outside nearly half-dressed in consequence of the heat. But their homes are not so bad as you might imagine". 03 08 04

1903 10 14

The recent completion of the Atlas Stone Company works at Coldham's Lane will add to the industrial importance of the Romsey Town and Cherry Hinton districts of Cambridge. A complete plant for the manufacture of artificial paving slabs on the most up-to-date principles has been installed with a hydraulic press capable of 500 slabs per day worked by electric power. The chief market is in

London and the Eastern Counties where the value of artificial flags for footways has been firmly established. 03 10 24

1904

1904 06 10

Deep holes excavated at Central Building Estate, New Chesterton 04 06 10 [3.19]

1905

1905 10 28

Winter means dismissal of large number of building workers - "as soon as building ceases in Cambridge distress begins 05 10 28 [3.20]

1906

1906

Corona Building Association founded

1906 04 19

Collins Passage, off Northampton Street, consisted of a number of very dilapidated houses closely packed together. They had low ceilings and the floor was insecure. There was no ventilation behind and a high brick wall at the front so they got no sun at all except for half-an-hour at the height of summer. They were unfit for human habitation. A good many other premises in the area were defective but did not justify wholesale demolition. 06 04 19c

1906 07 12

Any clerk or artisan with £25 can become the owner of a well-built convenient house just outside the borough boundary in Grantchester within ten minutes' walk of Market Hill. The houses contain eight good rooms with bathroom, 2 w.c.'s and nice garden. Gas and water laid on. The price is £250 and the balance can be spread over any number of years to suit the purchaser's convenience – E. Parcell & co., Builders, Newnham – advert. 06 07 12a

1906 09 08

Building trade in Cambridge is comparatively slack just now as suburban expansion on any large scale has ceased. Six months ago there was considerable activity in the Newnham district and on the Central Estate where a large number of houses sprang up suddenly. Then there was an extension of New Cherryhinton through the erection of many houses on the Hills Road. It is now planned to open up a building estate by cutting an avenue from Hills Road to the Trumpington Road. 06 09 08c [3.21]

1907

1907 08 08

Cambridge councillors recommended that a site in Albion Row occupied by the weigh-bridge and the Nag's Head should be offered on a building lease for 75 years and in case no satisfactory offer was received they should prepare a scheme for the erection of cottages. But first they must adopt the Housing of the Working Classes Act. 07 08 08

1907 10 17

Cottages in Cave's Yard, Union Road, Chesterton, are as about as bad as any in the district, an inquest into an infant was told. Vermin found on the child's body were not the fault of the mother: it would be impossible to keep such a house in that district free from vermin; the district ought to be burnt down. The slums in Old Chesterton are as bad as any you will find in London, a doctor testified. But people had to live somewhere. 07 10 17

1908 12 31

The Cambridge Railway Building Works, better known as the firm of William Saint and Sons, entertained 170 employees to dinner at the Lion Hotel. It started in 1880 and the first job was two villas on Mill Road, later came the Cattle Market contract but Westminster College, in 1900 was the

largest project they had ever tackled. They were known for the quality and execution of their work which was due to men such as Vigers, Hodson, Coe, Willmott, Taylor, Lobb and Haynes. 07 12 31 & a

1910

1910 02 04

Luke Hosegood, the Master, told Guardians there were 26 children in Cambridge workhouse. A large number of men had brought in their wives and families simply because they had been evicted from their houses as the result of slum clearance. There were several cases from Cambridge Place and a number from Castle End and if they went in at this rate all Castle End would be pauperised soon. It was getting a very serious matter. 10 02 04g

1910 02 12

Average Cambridge builder omits bathroom in otherwise tolerable house - whole streets of new houses without a bathroom amongst them" 10 02 12 [4.5]

1910 03 04

It was incredible to hear of the conditions that existed in Barnwell, said the Rev Gwinn. There was one road which in winter was almost knee-deep in mud. The children could not step from their doors without going ankle-deep and always went to school wet-footed. Five children in that street had been taken away with scarlet fever recently, partly owing to the sanitary arrangements and partly due to the stuff that was thrown out into the road. There was another street of 11 houses – or rather hovels – containing only two rooms apiece. In one of these lived seven people CWN 10 03 04f & g & h

1910 07 09

"Very few plans of cheap homes passed, other property being condemned so working people go outside the Borough for housing & need bicycles to get to work" 10 07 09 [4.6, 4.23]

1911

1911 06 02

The Storey's Charity Estate occupies one of the most elevated and healthy positions in Cambridge. The greater portion of the sites front the new road known as Storey's Way which is likely to become a major thoroughfare between Huntingdon & Madingley roads. Gas, water and electric light mains are laid on. Given its proximity to the Backs of the Colleges it should become one of the most popular residential estates in the neighbourhood. Judging from the interest the plots should be readily disposed of. 11 06 02c

1911 07 19

Prefabricated houses, Milton Road 11 07 19 [6.7]

1911 09 30

Model houses Castle End snapped up, but have pulled down more old than put up new & former residents live in the Workhouse; ought to build cheap houses but so many new byelaws it cannot be done 11 09 30 [6.1]

1911

Cyril Ridgeon builders formed [8.3]

1912

1912

Sanction to spend £1,600 on working-class dwellings Stanley Road site [4.9]

1912 03 29

It was wicked for the council to pull down insanitary houses without building cottages for the people displaced. Where were the people turned out to go? Landlords were getting twelve shilling a week for

a cottage divided up amongst seven families. In one house there were five occupiers of six rooms, one family having two and the others one room each. They each paid four-shillings a week whereas the normal rent was only three shillings, councillors were told. 12 03 29d & e Slum demolition means 4 families in 1 house, thus 10/- to 12/- (50 - 60p) paid per week for 2/9 (14p) cottage [4.8]

1912 06 28

Poorer Cambridge used to house itself in courts tucked away behind the streets. Some of them are now mere empty sites from which the wretched buildings have been cleared away. They are not even building sites. The requisite amount of space under the present laws is lacking even for one dwelling where they may perhaps have been half a dozen. Others contain old cottages which will come down when others can be built for the occupants. In the meantime disposed families herd in with other families. The Borough Council have applied for a loan to provide new dwellings but the amount of bricks and mortar bears no proportion to that applied to the University 12 06 28

1912 12 27

A serious case of overcrowding was reported at a lodging house at 57 Fitzroy Street. The Medical Officer said there were four rooms, two of which were bedrooms. The front sitting room was used as a bedroom by night. It was occupied by the owner, his wife and five-month-old baby, a man and 10-year-old daughter and Mr & Mrs Smith with two girls aged 14 & 12 and three boys of seven, five and two years. Such overcrowding was injurious to the people and a danger to neighbours as infectious diseases could easily spread 12 12 27c

1913

1913 07 25

A serious crisis has occurred in the building trade in Cambridge owing to the men's dissatisfaction with the present working conditions. Negotiations have been going on between the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and the Master Builders' Association but without agreement. Among the demands is for walking time allowed to jobs to be paid at twenty minutes a mile and not less than 3s 6d for lodgings. Wages should be 9d per hour (£3.66 at today's values). Now a strike will start on Monday. 13 07 25 p7 CIP

1913 08 01

Building strike averted 13 08 01 p 6 & 12 CIP

1913 11 21

Cottages were recently erected under the Housing of Working Classes Act in Stanley Road. One block of 12 tenements for old people consists of a living room with bed recess, scullery, larder and w.c.. Costs were higher than expected due to problems with the foundations meaning rents had to be higher. No ordinary person would have built such horrible houses. But they had been erected as an experiment to see what was needed and been successful, councillors heard. 13 11 21 p7 CIP

1914

1914

Corporation urged to build 150 new houses for rent under £15 pa [6.16]

1914 03 27

Cambridge Town Planning Committee had been in existence only a few months and had not yet decided anything in the way of town planning or building houses, the Mayor told a conference on Rural Housing. The Public Health Committee had erected dwellings for the poorer class in one part of town, some people thought them ideal and some otherwise. Some of the houses he would be sorry to lose from an antiquarian point of view but others, from a public health point of view, they would be exceedingly glad to lose 14 03 27, aa

1914 03 27

It would be fatal to erect houses in Cambridge without a parlour. It was the place where the family relics were kept and was needed when daughters started courting. They wanted to end the building of brick boxes with slate lids on them, but builders were the most conservative people on the face of the earth. If they were going to put baths in at great expense they would do more harm than good, said Mr Campkin. But people were rapidly realising the amenity of the bath and were using it properly, said others. 14 03 27aa

1914 04 24

Housing Difficulty - plans for the erection of six roomed cottages on the Victoria Road estate. The estimated cost of the houses will be £200 each. The Stanley Road experiment in the erection of cottages was criticised and to invite offers for the lease of the ground in Stanley Road for a term of 75 years. 14 04 24 CIPof

1914 05 08

It is with deep regret we record the death of ex-Alderman George Kett, J.P. It was only in November he resigned his council seat after long and valued service, having been Mayor three times. The firm of Rattee & Kett, ecclesiastical builders was founded in 1854 and he became head on the death of his father in 1872. The Catholic Church was erected under his direction but the work of his life was the restoration of Arundel Castle where 400-500 men were employed at one time. He retired in 1904 and his son, G.R. Kett is now head of the firm 14 05 08f [1.26]

1914 07 24

The whole of the Watts' Timber Yard on Newmarket Road., including sawmills, drying sheds and kilns were destroyed by fire. The blaze started in the stoke hole from which flames spread to the engine room and brick-making shed adjoining. The saw-mill nearby, containing a lot of wood, was soon alight and the wind blowing from Newmarket Road swept the blaze to the drying sheds and kilns where workmen removed the bricks. The tall chimney was expected to fall at any moment but the gable end of the saw-mill fell outwards, just missing firemen standing beneath it. However sheds holding valuable stock of flooring boards were put out. 14 07 24

1915

1915 09 17

Fire Kidman, builders, Abbey Walk; 15 09 17 p5, 7

1915 11 10

A mysterious outbreak of fire in the boiler house and blacksmith's of the Stourbridge Brick Co. Newmarket Road (Cambridge) on Thursday evening resulted in injury to a fireman and the total destruction of a large portion of the premises concerned. So far as can be ascertained, no one was working on the premises after 5 p.m. and the outbreak was discovered by the foreman Mr James Ingle, at 7.30 p.m. The Fire Brigade were telephoned and when they arrived with the motor escape and tender, the flames had got a grip on the buildings. Shortly after, the engine arrived. The roofs of the blacksmith's shop and the boiler house were burnt off and practically the whole of the contents of the building destroyed. Fireman Papworth, of the Cambridge Fire Brigade had a narrow escape. On entering a burning room, he fell into a deep pit, but fortunately sustained only slight bruises. The premises, we understand, were not insured 15 11 10 CIPof

1919

1919 05 07

Stanley Road cottages, council decide not to proceed with the scheme; was error in tender price – 19 05 07d

1919 05 21

'Cottages of the future; workmen's dwellings in Stanley Road; four-roomed houses better than six as men who had been in the army could not furnish larger houses – 19 05 21b

1919 12 17

First Eastern General huts to be converted into houses; 120 applications already received. One long ward to accommodate 16 small families; divided by concrete slabs – 19 09 10b. – first tenants move in – 19 12 17a photos – 19 12 17c

1920

1920

Housing situation difficult with returning troops and increasing numbers of undergraduates [1.28]

1920

First Borough housing scheme - 100 houses built at Cavendish Avenue, Hills Avenue & Hinton Avenue [1.18]

1920

First block of post-war Corporation dwellings in Stanley Road completed October [2.1]

1920 03 30

Burrell's Walk – 242 applications for accommodation, 74 in occupation of tenements and on completion of the first part of the housing scheme would be accommodation for further 60; 108 for whom no accommodation. Two of the wards were still in occupation of military who could not vacate for another month - CDN 20 03 30

1920 05 05

Plan and sketches of houses to be erected in Cherry Hinton district to relieve housing shortage – Ch 20 05 05b

1920 06 02

Woppard family not to be evicted from Sturton Street home, follows meeting on Parkers Piece to consider treatment of soldiers and sailors who had come back disabled and with nothing to fall back on. A cordon of people should stand round the house and prevent the planned eviction said Stubbs - CDN 20 06 02

1920 08 30

Is no accommodation at First Eastern General Hospital, are three applicants for every unit of two, three or four rooms; were ten rooms vacant and 140 applicants for them; ex-soldiers had preference - CDN 20 08 30

1920 09 04

First Eastern General Hospital alterations being carried out in three parts, the first providing for 134 tenements, the second for 48 and the third (now being proceeded with) for 31, making 213 in all. Even when all taken will still be more than 100 unsatisfied applicants - CDN 20 09 04

1920 12 07

Highworth Estate one of highest and healthiest parts, advertisement for new houses - CDN 20 12 07

1921

1921 07 27

A serious position has arisen in connection with the scheme for the erecting of houses by Cambridge Borough Council at Chesterton Road & Milton Road. The site was purchased some time ago and prepared for erection of 60 houses by direct labour. Construction of roads and sewers put in place. But Minister refuses to sanction other work unless whole of expense is borne by local rates. Work to stop and town will have a building site which cost over £14,000. It is impossible to proceed with building scheme without Government assistance – 21 07 27c

1922

1922 05

Council resolution that the slums of Cambridge are a disgrace & that steps should be taken to abolish them [2.3]

1922 05 19

At the Cambridge Housing Committee meeting Mrs Rackham said that there were 430 marriages in the borough during the year, and only 72 new houses were built. They were also told that there would have been more marriages had it not been for the housing difficulty. In 116 homes in which babies were born there was overcrowding to the extent, in some cases, of six or seven persons per bedroom. Before the war they used to talk of legal overcrowding as two persons in a room. Then there was some hope of getting the matter put right, but now there was none - 22 05 19

1922 05 20

Great fall in cost of building means councils get permission to submit tenders for schemes previously turned down. Houses that cost £750 a year ago now tendered for at £300 22 05 20 [1.20,4.2,4.4]

1922 07 29

Council scheme for erection of 500 houses - 22 07 29 [4.7]

1923

1923 01

‘Unassisted’ housing scheme: 878 new dwellings required - 615 for the homeless & to replace First Eastern General Hospital huts & 263 to replace slums [2.4]

1923 08

Coleridge Road under construction [4.15]

1923 08 18

Housing Committee recommend 239 houses in Chesterton Road & Milton Road at cost of £101,000 no private building - only 61 houses for working people built since 1919 & most of these owner-occupied; pre-war 168 houses per year houses to let very rare - over 100 applications for one advertised at £40 per annum 23 08 18 [4.3]

1923 10 24

Sir, - In some provincial towns the local authorities have adopted a scheme whereby tenants are given the option of purchasing the houses they occupy, upon slightly increased rent-purchase terms. Cambridge town council will soon have some hundreds of houses under their control, and it would surely be of advantage if some such arrangements were come to. Some hundreds of houses will eventually be erected on the Chesterton Hall site. Even now one cannot view the place without being struck with the depressing uniformity of all the houses - all one design, all one size, all one colour - not forgetting the flap over the front door. Considering that the council employ architects one would have expected something more varied to relieve the horrid monotony – “Chestertonian 23 10 24

1923 12 14

A recommendation that a subsidy equivalent to £8 per house for 20 years be given to induce private enterprise to proceed with the erection of houses was carried by Cambridge town council. Councillor Few thought those who built would take advantage of the law of supply and demand. Only last week a case occurred of a landlord of a house in Romsey town raising the rent from 7s.9d. to 14s.9d. when the father died, declaring that the house had become vacant and telling the daughter she could have it at the increased rent – nearly 100% advance 23 12 14

1924

1924 01 12

Cambridge must face the growing danger and disaster of its housing shortage. In our not very large town between 7 and 800 families are in immediate need of a house, not because they are unemployed,

or very poor, or in any way unable to pay a fair rent, but because there are no houses for them to go into. Families are divided. The husband is here where his work lies, the wife and children are living elsewhere. Some dare not have children. Others have them and find that they are no longer welcome tenants. It is not easy for a young wife and mother to make good when her two rooms are rented and when the use of the kitchen, bathroom and lavatory by her family are looked upon as an intrusion 24 01 12

1924 02 09

Cambridge council heard that 240 slum houses still remained and none had been treated except where the structural condition was so unsafe that the buildings had to be abandoned. The slums were getting worse and worse and there was no means of cleaning them. Some small cottages should be built to relieve the pressure so there might be transition from houses which were quite unfit for human habitation. But if they built such houses they would later have to spend money on sanatorium treatment. There would be no room for air space, and they would be a disgrace to Cambridge 24 02 09

1924 05 03

An inquest was held on a 57-year-old general labourer, in the employ of the Cambridge Brick Company, who died as a result of injuries received in a fall of earth. Charles Peters, 62, said he was working some nine feet from the deceased in a clay pit. He was picking and the deceased was filling trucks. The front fell off from the face of the pit, two tons fell. Not three minutes before the accident he had examined the top of the pit. There were two sets of railways and the clay fell between these two. The work had been carried on for many years and all were fully alive to what might happen 24 05 03

1924 11 23

The death occurred at his residence, Devonshire Road, Cambridge of Mr William Saint. Born at St Ives in 1851 he came to Cambridge and started business as a builder in Hooper Street. In 1888 he transferred to St Barnabas Road where the present works are situated and in 1918 it was turned into a limited company. A flourishing concern has now been built up, but the builders' strike in the early months of this year had a serious effect and gave him a great deal of worry & hastened his end 24 11 24

1924 12 05

Cambridge Council have asked the Ministry of Health if they are prepared to grant a subsidy in respect of wooden houses. Coun. Stubbs asked if they intended to build the workers wooden rabbit hutches to live in. Coun. Briggs said it was a retrograde matter, they ought never to touch such a thing as wooden houses in 1924. Councillor Ambrose said they were not putting houses up because they had not the men to put them up. There were rows of houses waiting for men to come along and finish them off. If they put up a wooden frame construction they would do any amount of good 24 12 05

1925

1925

Steel houses to be erected, will cost £435 and become Corporation property [2.25]

1925

Coleridge Road - 200 houses built [1.21]

1925 01 31

A house advertisement brings 134 in first day, 412 in 3 days – 25 01 31 [4.20]

1925 07 17

The acquisition by Jesus College of the old Newmarket Railway has enabled them to develop the Station building estate by the construction of Coleridge Road, and they are offering freehold land in suitable plots for the erection of private dwelling houses in open and healthy surroundings, with

ample garden ground. Coleridge Road has been constructed by the college at great expense & is the first in Cambridge constructed of reinforced concrete. Lots are offered at prices from £225 to £250. 25 07 17

1925 09 19

Sale of council houses to people with no capital 25 09 19 [1.10]

1926

1926 02 05

Coun Few said they were very proud of the houses they had built in Vinery Road and Coleridge Road, but they were now proposing to build houses that in a few years would become a slum area. They would be spoiling Cambridge if they built non-parlour houses with only one living room. They ought to consider the women who had to live in those houses. "We men only pop in and pop out, as it were, we are only lodgers; it is our working women who have to put up with them all the time. I call that type of house unfit for human being to live in as far as the wife and children are concerned", he said 26 02 05

1926 09 11

Cambridge Women's Housing Association has been formed to assist in the supply of houses for the town and, in particular, to meet the urgent demand for the provision of more housing accommodation at an economic rent for the educated woman worker and others. It proposes to purchase suitable houses and convert them into self-contained flats of one, two or three rooms with kitchenettes. At a later stage it is hoped to build a residential club. Already nearly £1,000 has been subscribed 26 09 11

1927

1927 02 19

The newly-formed Cambridge Housing Society has lost little time in getting to work. It has obtained a site in Green End Road, Cambridge and plans for 22 houses have been approved. The houses are to cost about £420 each and are to be let at a weekly rental of 5s.6d. It is hoped to have them complete by September. 27 02 19

1927 04 27

"I feel it should be the utmost endeavour to get townspeople now existing in Burrell's Walk out of those huts and into council houses with the greatest expediency", said A.C. Taylor, the Independent candidate in the Castle Ward by-election. He was gravely concerned with the sanitary conditions of the place and while the huts served a very useful purpose years ago they were never intended to be permanent abodes of civil population. There were some worse cases in Cambridge but for young people with families the cramped conditions and colourless surroundings did not make for the bringing up of bright, healthy children. 27 04 27

1927 05

Cambridge Housing Society founded to provide housing to rent for larger families unable afford council houses, first scheme 22 terraced 3-bed houses Green End road completed 1928 & let at 7/3 (36p) a week; other building Montreal Square, Hobart Rd & French's road, Ditton Walk; part of campaign against slums [1.22,2.12,6.3]

1927 05 16

New Chesterton Hall Estate called a 'charming place'; green verges along Milton Road collect the dust caused by cars on road on windy days and are being introduced throughout the town 27 05 16 [3.12]

1927 12 17

Corporation sell houses on Milton Road & Coldham's Lane for £5 down & the balance in weekly instalments - Milton Road cost £579 repayable at 21/1 (£1.05) for 2 years & 17/- (85p) for 18 years

(rates 3/- (15p) a week. "Those who can afford to pay such amounts to contact Treasurer" 27 12 17 [3.14]

1928

1928

Cambridge Preservation Society founded due to concern over unregulated development [4.1]

1928 01 28

Cambridge borough council considered plans from the Cambridge Estates Ltd for the construction of roads and sewers on the Hurst Park Estate which has an acreage of 30 acres, nine being in Cambridge and 21 in the parish of Impington. It is proposed to erect approximately 190 houses. Ald Raynes thought the public who were considering purchasing plots should be fully aware of what they were doing. Only a small portion of the estate was within Cambridge and the rest was in the Chesterton Rural District Council's area who did not have a single bylaw affecting buildings or the construction of roads 28 01 28

1928 11

Tablet on house in Montreal Square as this the 45th house erected by Cambridge Housing Society [2.13]

1928 02 04

The first annual report of the Cambridge Housing Society shows they have built 22 houses at Green End Road to be let at an average rent of 5s.6d. per week. Twenty-two families with 91 children are accommodated and thus given the chance of growing up in healthy surroundings in houses with three bedrooms, modern sanitation and good gardens. But there are still problems of providing modern houses for poor families at rents they can reasonably afford 28 02 04

1929

1929 01 18

Cambridge Councillors considered erecting 50 houses of a type within the pecuniary means of the people who would have to be moved from insanitary houses. In some places eight people were living in a single room under exceptional circumstances of poverty. But a man might say 'I am paying 3s. 6d. a week for two rooms and I cannot afford any more'. So what type of house was going to be built? In some of the houses there were elderly people and moving them perhaps two miles would be quite out of the question. 29 01 18

1929 09 24

Green End Road land needed for housing inquiry - 29 09 24

1930

1930s

Battle for housing between the wars – feature – 89 07 27

1930 05 12

The Cambridge branch of the Association of Plasterers and Granolithic and Cement Workers celebrated its 50th anniversary. Mr G. Cook, their first secretary said they had experienced strikes and lock-outs; they had acted on the defensive and had been aggressive. They had a proud record for bettering the conditions for the workers. At one time they were 100 per cent organised and still had 95 per cent membership 30 05 12

1930 12

Barrow Road houses built [4.12]

1931

1931 02 20

Cambridge slums – 31 02 20b

1931 04 03

Mr J. Sainsbury, head of the famous provision firm, opened a new residential club that will accommodate 15 young men. In a place like Cambridge it is difficult for a young man to get lodgings and this large house in Brooklands's Avenue has been modernised and redecorated and is a model of its kind. The bedrooms, which have two beds, have a wardrobe and cupboard for each occupant; it has a room with facilities for games and reading and dispels any gloomy feeling about what used to be called 'living in'. There were few local firms who had made such provision for their staff. Many firms had a contributory pension scheme but they had decided against such a scheme. 30 04 03k

1931 04 24

A Cambridge builder was granted possession of a cottage at Mill End, Cherry Hinton. He had purchased it three years ago when the occupant paid 2s 9d a week. That man had left but there were now nine people living there in just a living room and kind of kitchen with a bedroom and a lean-to on the landing above. It was in a very bad state and he intended to carry out improvements; it should not have been re-let until in proper repair. 31 04 24f

1931 06 12

The new road under construction between Milton and Histon Roads provides some exceptionally attractive sites for those wishing to erect a private house. It has much to recommend it as Chesterton is a very popular district but most of the available land within a reasonable distance of town has already been taken up. The plots are for the erection of private dwellings only and no bungalows or inadequate houses can be erected. 31 06 12k

1931 10 02

Modern house on Madingley road – photo – 31 10 02s

1932

1932 01 21

A Ram Yard plumber told Cambridge bankruptcy court he had been successful until 1929 but due to the trade depression he could not get sufficient work and certain customers did not pay. He built a house in Belvoir Road for his own occupation with the very best plumbing and if this sold for £1,100 he could repay his creditors 32 01 21

1932 02 17

First houses new corporation estate, Histon Road 32 02 17 [6.4]

1932 02 26

St Andrew's Court, off St Andrew's Street, was a disgraceful place in the centre of Cambridge. It was not only an eye-sore, but dangerous. Properties were dark, damp, reeking with age and decay. The houses were not fit for human habitation, children under school-leaving age will not be permitted to live there – but what of young mothers and old people? Such slums should be demolished, the Medical Officer urged 32 02 26

1932 03 09

Kendal Way contract charges 32 03 09 [3.7, 6.6]

1932 03 30

Described by its builders and furnishers as 'the ideal home at the ideal price on the ideal terms' there is a newly built house in King's Hedges Road which all prospective purchasers should inspect. With two receptions, three bedrooms, a bathroom and large garden it is on sale at the remarkably reasonable price of £625 freehold or for £35 deposit and 19/6 (97p) weekly. Robert Sayle has completely furnished it at a price of £140.10s. Lucky will be the wife whose husband presents her with this home. 32 03 30

1932 06 16

The new Trinity Hall Estate off Milton Road is one of the highest, healthiest and more popular residential districts of Cambridge. It has been developed on garden suburb lines with grass verges and street lighting. The rooms are airy and spacious, hot and cold water is supplied to the bathroom, and there is a good garden with space for a garage. The first seven houses were sold before they were complete 32 06 16b

1932 09 23

On the Kendal Way Estate 375 new panels had had to be put in the front doors as they had cracked badly and fallen out on the mats. To put them in workmen had nailed pieces of wood at the back of the doors and nailed the new panels on to them. Such bogged-up doors should be taken out straight away and replaced with new ones. In every house one can find one or more of the ceilings and walls cracked. Jobs were only done properly when the clerk of the works was around. 32 09 23e

1933

1933

Master Builders & Decorators advert: "Do you realise that 1,653 able-bodied men are totally unemployed in your own town. Do you realise that of this appalling total 543 men are of the building trade". Help the unemployed by spending money on home improvement

1933

Hundred Houses Society founded [1.24]

1933 01 19

Some of the buildings erected during 1932 in Cambridge and district by Kidman and Sons Ltd, Abbey Walk. 'The British Queen', Histon Road, Sedley Taylor School, Cambridge Co-operative Society cooked meat factory and milk depot, St Paul's church hall in Suez Road and Spicer's Cinema, Sawston (Full page advertisement with photos) 33 01 19 a & b

1933 02 03

Demolition orders were made in respect of houses in Wellington Passage, Sun Court, Smith's Gardens and Newmarket Road. Some were in such a precarious state they would not last much longer. But the people moved from slum dwellings just found accommodation in lodgings, which meant two families in one house. It would be no kindness to rebuild on the site of demolished houses. People should be moved to more spacious sites on the outskirts of Cambridge. 33 02 03d

1933 02 20

Waterworks company list of plumbers – 33 02 20b

1933 06 16

The latest feature of building development at Cambridge is the erection of two blocks of modern flats at Pinehurst, Grange Road. The site, formerly occupied by a large house used as a private school, has been acquired by the Strand and Savoy Properties. Each block has 20 flats at rentals from £145 to £175 per annum. Messrs Stockbridge furnished on display flat in antique style including a Queen Anne bureau-bookcase, another had modern furniture by Papworth Industries with an 'all-electric' kitchen. 33 06 16a [6.2]

1933 07 04

George Robert Kett was one of Cambridge's best-known and respected builders. He studied medicine before joining Rattee & Kett, becoming managing director in 1926 and was a founder of the Federation of Building Trades Employers in 1918. During the Great War he was Executive Officer for Food Control for Cambridge and served as a special constable.. Despite his outspoken manner his genial personality maintained for him an almost unrivalled popularity. 33 07 04 p8

1933 08 10

Cambridge is well ahead with its slum clearance schemes. In the Newmarket Road area there was a case for clearance near the Tabernacle but most of the people worked in the neighbourhood and if they were rehoused on the outskirts it would mean increased cost in getting to work. They had displaced 342 people and only provided homes for 218 of them: would the rest be put onto the street? There was controversy over the fate of one old lady whose house had been demolished, but it was better than leaving her in a building so dangerous it might collapse and bury her. 33 08 10

1933 09 20

Well-built houses, Perne Road. An attractive position, situate on the beautifully-made new ring road, close to bus stop. Prices £690 and £710. £50 down, balance £1 weekly. See Walter Driver's announcement in the auction columns for detailed particulars. Sole Agent: Drivers, 1a Post Office Terrace. Tel.468 (Advertisement) 33 09 20

1933 10 03

Speaking of slum clearance, Mrs Stevenson said there was no trouble about building houses, but the psychological side of rehousing is difficult. Slum dwellers became very cosy in their 'dirty little places' and when transferred to the spacious amenities of a new estate, the families felt terribly lost. Cambridge had 1,700 council houses yet there were 1,269 people on the waiting list with names added at the bottom as fast as they were removed from the top. The situation was helped by the newly-formed Hundred Houses Society. 33 10 03

1933 12 15

Rents of houses in Dalton Square, Linden Close and Scotland Road were subsidised and because of the low cost of building they were remarkably low – houses with four bedrooms were six-and-ninepence (34p) a week. These rents could be reduced if tenants could show their income was insufficient. The general public did not fully realise the facilities now provided to the re-housing of very poor people, councillors were told. 33 12 15

1933 12 09

Hundred Houses Society work – 33 12 09

1934

1934 02 02

Kirby & son, woman builder and contractor, bankruptcy 34 02 02

1934 02 16

A home of his own for even the lowest paid worker – such was the prospect opened up at Coldham's Lane when the first brick was laid on the new Cromwell Road housing estate. Cambridge Ideal Homes will build about 200 houses at prices from £350 which can be purchased on a small weekly payment of about ten shillings. They will contain three good bedrooms, two large sitting rooms, scullery, bathroom and garage space. If every family could own their own house they would be happier and more contented. 34 02 16 [4.19]

1934 03 08

A plastering contractor said he'd been told there was "a bag of money for plasterers in Cambridge" and had come from Sutton Bridge with £900 to his credit. There was a strike on at the time and he started on 20 houses in Huntingdon Road for Mr John Brignell then contracted to plaster 212 houses in Kendal Way. But another workman's strike arose – a strike that never ceased. His last contract was for houses at Harston, Eversden and Coldham's Lane. He attributed his failure to other people's bankruptcy and bad debts 34 03 08

1934 04 10

An inquiry into the sale of land in Scotland Road heard it had been offered to the corporation by Mr A.E. Few in 1929 but they'd turned it down. The land was subsequently bought by a private

individual for £2,600. But when it was needed for the Hundred Houses Society the new owner had sold it to the council for £3,200. It was a good profit but the inspector cleared the council of any maladministration. 34 04 10 [1.11]

1934 06 23

The Mayor opened Cambridge's 2,000th council house situated on Bateson Road and a large number of spectators gathered to watch. He unveiled a memorial tablet high up on the front wall to commemorate the occasion. The Housing Committee was formed in 1920 to construct houses for the working classes and the estates are a great credit to the architect. Mr Bland. Most houses had three bedrooms with spacious gardens. But there was a need for more for young people who find it difficult to get a home and remain unmarried year after year, disappointed and tired of waiting 34 06 23 [1.12,1.23]

1934 12 28

William Sindall was one of the most prominent of Cambridge business men. Born at Isleham he served his apprenticeship and established the well-known building firm 60 years ago. It has erected many University and college buildings besides undertaking a number of other important contracts. A councillor and Alderman, Mr Sindall was director of the Waterworks Company and the Cambridge Chronicle. He was also associated with the arts and crafts side of the Cambridgeshire Technical School. 34 12 28a

1935

1935 02 22

Cambridge Ideal Homes Ltd laid the first brick on the Cromwell Park Estate on 16th February 1934 and now 128 houses were built or under construction – one third of the total houses built in Cambridge during that period. Builders Johnson Bailey and road contractors Lavender & Bateman had worked whole-heartedly to assist the scheme. The low prices they charged meant houses had got to be sold as soon as they were built, bringing them within the reach of the ordinary working man. But there are still 900 people on Council house waiting lists. 35 02 22a

1935 07 31

The Hundred House Society realised that young married people were not getting a very good chance of obtaining a house. Nothing in the world matters more than that they should have happy home lives and that marriage and the bringing up of children should be the happiest and jolliest business that could ever happen to them. Eastfields was the most beautiful housing scheme and those who had been selected would make very good tenants. The rents were set at what they could more-or-less comfortably pay, without the Society making excessive profits 35 07 31 erects 100th house 35 08 22 [1.1]

1935 10 04

Much building Storeys Way, Gilbert Road, Cromwell Road 35 10 04 [1.2]

1935 12 14

Erection of new houses means depopulation in Castle End area 35 12 14 [1.13]

1935 10

Brampton Road new housing estate [4.13]

1935 10 02

Building of Cromwell Park housing estate – photo – 35 10 02a Perne Road – 35 10 03

1935 12 16

Sir – the de-population of Castle End has brought a serious decline in trade in this district. Slum clearance has seen the departure of many young families to the new residential estates in other parts of Cambridge and we are left with the old people whose requirements are practically nil. When a house

is vacant it is condemned and pulled down so consequently no new residents come to take their place. Some sites have been empty for years and are growing a plentiful supply of weeds and thistles. When are we going to have new houses built on these vacant sites – Tradesman 35 12 16

1936

1936 02 22

Meadowlands Estate Newmarket Road, Cromwell Park estate – adverts 36 02 22c & e

1936 02 22

Harvey's Church Farm Estate at Eversden & Harlton offers a brick-built bungalow with an acre of well-drained land suitable for nurseries, glasshouses or poultry fattening - Mr Creighton, who lives on the Estate, is an expert and would be pleased to show you the methods. The basis of a house is the foundations and the material comes from our own sand pits at Cottenham. We use Fletton Bricks and tiles fitted by the Marley Tile Company who give a 40 years guarantee with each roof. Window frames and doors come from Newsums of Lincoln, ranges and locks by Cakebread Robey & Co while Sir William Rose & Company supply the paints and distemper and electrical installations are carried out by A.W. Matthews of Mill Road, Cambridge. Advert 36 02 22d

1936 04 11

Plans for the new Meadowlands Estate show 277 houses and six shops. The builders proposed to construct the primary roads with concrete but run the risk that the council will not take them over. They have suggested the names Meadowlands Road, Meadowlands Way, Meadowlands Terrace, Brightside and The Sunnyside but councillors want some alternatives 36 04 11

1936 04 11

Death Charles Kidman, builder 36 04 11b

1936 05 15

There were a large number of single people in Cambridge living under very unsatisfactory housing conditions and few of the public lodging houses were suitable for them. The council could cooperate with the Church Army or Salvation Army but this meant robbing people of their freedom as individuals. It was about time they erected a municipal lodging house where people could live under decent, humanitarian conditions, Dr Wolf urged 36 05 15a & b

1936

1936 10 13

The Housing Committee was told that over 170 people would be displaced by the demolition of buildings in Cambridge Place; the houses would have to be vacated within two months from the date of the clearance order. Plans would be drawn up to build 47 houses to re-home residents on land off Newmarket Road which the Council would purchase from G.P. Hawkins and W. Boyton for nearly £10,000. 36 10 13b

1936 12 15

Cyril Ridgeon recalled the early days of his business at a dinner in to celebrate its silver jubilee. When the Great War came ruin had started him in the face. But he managed to get some army contracts and started as an English timber merchant selling thousands of trees to the Midlands and Cambridge builders. At times he worked up to the knees in snow. He bought his first lorry, a Wolverine, in 1922 and put up a sawmill in Cavendish Road. It had been hard work and success was due to the loyal staff 36 12 15a & b

1936 12 31

Cambridge Place was a long, narrow cul-de-sac with a narrow entrance from Hills Road. It used to have an unenviable reputation but had now greatly improved. It was a convenient place for residents engaged in unskilled work who left their houses early and returned late. But the houses were unfit for human habitation. Nearly all the roofs were sunken, the doors perished, the plaster was decayed, the

stairs dark and steep. They were all were damp, thirty-three shared a water tap with another house and none had a water closet inside nor any proper place to keep food, an Inquiry heard. 36 12 30b & c, picture 36 12 31

1937

1937 03 27

Have you seen the luxury houses on the Fendon Estate (new road leading from Hills Road to Queen Edith's Way?). Make a visit this Easter. Architect designed houses, built with best materials and labour by a firm which is rapidly gaining a fine reputation. Houses have sold quickly to discerning buyers. Every house is detached and different. Schools and churches nearby. Prices from £975 to £1,500. Advert 37 03 27b

1937 04 02

Hundred Houses Society annual report – 37 04 01, Water Street estate, 37 04 02

1937 07 02

Cherry Hinton houses sell for £499 37 07 02 [4.18]

1937 09 11

Thompson's houses sell because they are quality built, using only the best materials and stand on good sites. The 'Windsor Estate' is being rapidly completed with houses for sale from £585 to £850 (£32,500 - £45,200 today). It is in a very healthy position on one of the highest points and served by two main bus routes. The 'Thornton Estate' houses cost from £800 to £1,500 (about £83,340). Each is freehold and the price includes roads and paths, fencing, decoration and large gardens. Ralph Thompson Ltd, Fulbourn – Advert 37 09 11a

1938

1938 02 03

Many unscrupulous Cambridge landlords are charging more than they are entitled under the Rent Restriction Act. There should be a crusade against them. One railwayman about to retire on a pension had been paying three shillings and ninepence rent for over 20 years (about £10.04 today). Now this had been raised by three shillings (£8). Tenants in Cavendish Avenue had been told they would have to pay sixpence a week more because the landlady was supplying sanitary dustbins. Those who felt exploited should see the Poor Man's Lawyer 38 02 03c

1938 02 08

Swann's brickyard damaged by undergraduates- seemed old and disused - 38 02 08

1938 02 26

The Fendon Estate, (new road leading from Hills Road to Queen Edith's Way). Architect designed houses built with best materials and labour by a firm which is rapidly gaining a fine reputation. Near golf course. Schools and churches nearby. Houses have sold quickly to discriminating buyers during the short period this Estate has been open. Prices £1,050 to £2,000. Secure your site now to avoid disappointment. House now ready for sale, £1,475 (about £79,000 today). Specifications include large oak hall, dining room, coal and coke stores, larder, central heating with three radiators, electric lighting, power and bell points. – Advertisement 38 02 26a

1938 03 16

Young couples are caught in a trap: they cannot have Council houses until they have produced a family, and they must not produce a family unless they have a proper place to live, Prof John Hilton told the Cambridge Housing Society. The nation was taking no steps to provide houses for young people who wanted to marry. They might try the hire purchase system but are required to find about £50 deposit – where are the working-classes to find such a sum (about £2,700 at present prices). And is it desirable that those starting out should begin by buying a house? They are not settled in their

work and may want to move only to find that because of a change in the value of the house, they have lost all they have poured into it. 38 03 16

1938 10 27

Park Street was a very congested area in the heart of Cambridge and the houses were upwards of 100 years old. The brickwork was weather worn and crumbled, the walls were damp, natural light was poor and the staircases narrow, winding and dark. The ceiling plaster was cracked and liable to collapse and the floor boards were weak, springy and worm-eaten. In some cases there was no copper or sink and no proper food store. Some had no water supply. They were unfit for human occupation and should be demolished, an Inquiry was told. But residents objected 38 10 27 & a also Saxon Street

1939

1939 02 25

Fendon Estate new choice residential area of Cambridge – advert – 39 02 25a

1939 04 06

St Regis luxury flats, Chesterton Road. The main staircase has Rexine-finished walls with soft lights dispensing an atmosphere of well-being. The stairs are covered with cork to silence the noise. All flats are expensively fitted out and a resident caretaker will remove refuse and arrange for domestic cleaning. A unique feature is the provision of a large air raid shelter built under the garages. It has a concrete roof and will be perfectly safe against all but a direct hit by a heavy bomb. Provision has been made for gas-proofing it in case of emergency. 39 04 06a

1939 05 09

For many couples contemplating marriage, the biggest obstacle is a home. Mr L.M. Parker, a local bricklayer, was faced with that problem in 1935 and set to to build his own. It took him three years to finish but if you go along to 187 Hinton Way you will agree his time has been well spent. It is a home any working-class man would be proud to possess with six rooms, modern labour-saving devices and inlaid cupboards. Above all the cost was comparatively negligible. 39 05 09

1939 05 18

Jack Brignell carried on business as a builder and undertaker in Newmarket Road for over 40 years. He erected many large buildings in Cambridge but was recently mainly engaged on Council schemes such as the erection of the Coleridge Senior School. He was a county councillor and took a keen interest in the Mill Road Infirmary, Salvation Army, Victoria Institution and Cambridge Brotherhood. He died on the eve of his only son's 21st birthday so a coming of age party arranged at his college, Sidney Sussex, has of course been abandoned. 39 05 18c

1939 10 14

Spalding's Directory lists 20 new roads 39 10 14 [1.14]

1940

1940 03 05

Cambridge Brick Company (1937) formed Apr 1937 to take over business Cambridge Brick Company; reconstruction and new machine meant it became short of capital. War brought standstill – 40 03 05a, 40 04 24b

1940 05 17

Cambridge Building Material Supply Co started by Charles Lovell Naylor in 1930; built considerable number of houses in Scotland Road and King's Hedges Road and sold all bar five. But problems at outbreak of war lead insolvency. Bought Rendezvous in 1930 and rebuilt it 1931 after fire. He lost £2,000 over fire. In 1935 a limited liability company took over the cinema but sold it again because of his ill health – 40 05 17

1941

1941 04 28

Land Army – 100 assemble on Parker’s Piece for rally; need billets – 41 04 28

1941 05 19

Gt Shelford farmer fined as failed to plough land at Stapleford – 41 05 19b

1941 07 14

Miracle of reclaimed fenland – potatoes grow on land that was derelict a few months ago At Feltwell Fen; new branch of the light railway known as ‘Bread and Butter Express’ and owned by Ministry of Agriculture – 41 07 14

1942

Cambridge Housing Society took over properties from Corona Building Association (founded 1906)

1942 01 10

Cyril Ridgeon, timer and builder’s merchant dies; started with Watts & Son, then Bristow & Copley timber importers at King’s Lynn. Started on own in 1913 in Tenison Road, took son C. Elliott Ridgeon into partnership 1925; formed limited company 1931 – 42 01 10

1943

1943 05 07

Cambridge will need 4,000 new houses after war say planners – 43 05 07

1944

1944 10 14

Steel houses find few friends but are houses - 44 10 14 [1.15] 1944 11 21

1944 11 21

First pre-fab house erected on Parker’s Piece – 44 11 21

1945

1945 06 21

25 German Prisoners of War at work on Lichfield Rd housing site; the 100 temporary houses will be pre-fabricated ‘Unisec’ type – photo – CDN 1945 06 21

1945 09 28

First pre-fabricated houses on Histon Rd site – CDN 1945 09 28

1946

1946

Start building pre-fabs as temporary (10 year) measure to cope with increasing housing demand; reached peak of 435 in Church End, Walpole Rd & Fishers Lane; 40 at Gilbert Close, 100 in Lichfield-Golding Road area 69 04 03 [12]

1946

Mowlem build concrete ‘Easiform’ houses at cost of £1,400, providing houses within capacity of people to pay - not everybody can afford 35/- (£1.75) per week 52 12 17 [2.18]

1946 10 16

Steel re-fabs being erected at Trumpington – photos – 46 10 16a

1946 10 18

Lichfield Road estate pre-fabs from air – photo - 46 10 18a

1947

1947 04 21

Simplicity and speed is the key-note in the Cambridge Borough Council's Birdwood Road building site, when 158 permanent concrete houses are being erected. Machinery used in the work of construction - like cranes, cement- mixers and lifts for conveying concrete to the scaffolding tops - is electrically powered from the Electricity Company's supply. Briefly the method of construction is this : a concrete foundation is laid and on it a steel case is placed in position. Concrete is poured into this steel "skeleton" and after the mixture has set the case is removed - leaving concrete walls with an air-space between. The roofs will be tiled. Ninety per cent of the labour, incidentally, is Polish 47 04 21

1947 05 02

Alderman Dr Wood, chairman of Cambridge Housing Committee said "We are in an extremely difficult situation. We have got perhaps a hundred and fifty cases where we have a man working in Cambridge with his wife and family elsewhere - cases where after six years of separation during the war the family and the father are still separated". It appeared that it is going to take ten to twelve years at the present rate to find accommodation for all wanting it. Coun Cutting said "I think we will have a very ugly situation before us next winter. I cannot imagine that those who suffered and fought are going to endure this for many more months" 47 05 02

1947 06 26

Plans for providing Airey houses at a number of villages in the Chesterton R.D.C. area in lieu of permanent brick houses are being prepared. The Ministry of Health have ruled that during the next 18 months, rural authorities must erect one Airey house per three houses constructed. The architect is preparing revised lay-out plans for the sites at Fulbourn, Teversham, Longstanton and Elsworth. A lay-out plan for Coton, providing for a total of 54 houses was approved. Housing progress up to May 29th 1947 reveals 77 houses completed (includes 31 prefabs, 4 bungalows and 5 Swedish), 136 permanent houses and 19 temporary houses in course of erection

1947 07 22

The death occurred at the Catholic Nursing Home in Brooklands Avenue of Mr Edmund Joseph Kett who has been ill for the past week. Mr Kett who was 85, was a partner in the firm of Messrs Rattee and Kett, builders and contractors where he started as a boy immediately on leaving school. He retired from the firm in 1925 when the business became a limited company. During his time with the firm he was responsible for the building of the Cambridge Catholic Church and was also connected with the restoration of Arundel Castle, the Duke of Norfolk's country seat. This took 16 years to complete 47 07 22

1947 10 10

Ald Dr Alex Wood, chairman of the Cambridge Housing Committee said that 500 houses had been completed, of which 206 were permanent. The number of houses completed by private contract was 68. The greatest difficulty was in regard to labour. On one site he discovered but one bricklayer at work. He commented "We are attaching no blame to the contractors; I met two of them and found both almost broken-hearted about the difficulties with which they had to contend, and the shortages they were up against. The slow rate of building means that people have got to keep on living in emergency accommodation and other families which ought to be moved into emergency accommodation are, therefore, kept waiting. They were still completely unable to deal with a number of families living separated in almost impossible conditions of overcrowding - sometimes 11 people in three bedrooms - and in property which ought not to be inhabited 47 10 10

1948

1948 04 26

Dr Alex Wood, chairman of the Cambridge Housing Committee spoke of the factors which had largely created the housing problem in Cambridge. There had been an influx of a very large number of people whose property elsewhere was destroyed during the war and they had settled in the area.

The second "complication" was that the University was being urged by the Government to take larger numbers of students, thus adding to the competition for the housing accommodation available. "In the third place there is a very large increase in the Civil Service personnel in Cambridge," said Dr Wood amongst laughter. "While we like them all very much personally, they do complicate our problem" 48 04 26

1948 12 16

The first important milestone in Cambridge post-war housing drive was reached when the Mayor opened the council's 1,000th house – an "Easiform", at 27 Peverell Road on the Newmarket road site, where tenant, Mrs Betson, was waiting. Beforehand they had been taken on a tour of some of the principal housing estates in the town and saw estates at all stages of development - ranging from the neat, well-established looking one at Trumpington, only lacking the shops which will come one day, to the unfinished but partly-tenanted. At these mothers with perambulators have to be helped through the mud, and children kept in wellington boots 48 12 16 [3.11]

1949

1949

"Council put in Gilbert road after WWI & sold off individual plots to spec developers to erect villas; Gurney Way & Courtney Way built prior WWII by Ginn & Son, then Metcalfe Rd & Carlton Way; building ceased for duration, land used allotments. Started Metcalfe soon after war; regulations forbade buildings over a certain floor area & covenant from St Johns forbade buildings under certain area; thus first half of Metcalfe Rd have appearance of pairs of large semis but were built as 4 flats, designed for easy conversion into semis; one flat satisfied Government, 2 flats converted to semis satisfied St John's; 1st houses E side Carlton Way at college's specified density of 8 to acre" [81 07 23]

1949 02 11

Sir – I want to call your attention to the despairing fact that Cambridge landladies seem to hate babies. My husband and I have been trying for countless months to rent a house, flat or rooms but as soon as we haltingly mention the criminal fact that we have a baby, the answer is "Sorry". Why, he is far too young to do any possible damage and cries less than the average. We are not paupers, and can afford a reasonable rent. I would give a hand in the house if need be, so that my husband, baby and I can be together. Will landladies please tell me why they refuse accommodation to people such as we? – "Norrie" 49 02 11

1949 12 05

Tenants of Gothic street and Doric street have sent a petition to Cambridge health department protesting "most vigorously against the prolonged occupation of these slum dilapidated properties, seriously affecting the health, particularly of the children forced to live under absolutely shocking conditions, which foster ill health and the spread of disease; being vermin-infested and in a very bad state of disrepair, some without kitchen fires, others with collapsed interior walls and ceilings". They recall that the properties were actually purchased by the council before the war for demolition. Tenants were told this accommodation was only temporary some one to three years ago 49 12 05

1949 12 06

Cambridge housing committee has authorised the Surveyor to negotiate tenders for the erection of 217 houses during the first six months on the Ditton Lane, Queen Edith's Way and Coleridge Road sites, and for 250 more and one at Ventress Farm for the remainder of the year. They have informed Marshall's Flying School that they are unable to give priority to workers holding "key posts" and also said that until the present housing position eases they cannot consider providing accommodation for further single persons.

1949 12 08

Sir – Has Smart's Row ever been condemned? My landlord is trying to make my house water-tight, but because the roof is dilapidated to such an extent that no contractor will undertake the job to put it

right, every time there is a heavy rain I get flooded out. There are 13 houses in this Row and no matter how many of a family you have there is only one bedroom. It is impossible to get a 4ft 6in bed into the room, either by stairs or window – these are so small. There is no garden but a rat-infested back way. We have no sink and it is detrimental for my wife to try and keep the place clean. We should not be allowed to stay in these houses until we develop T.B. & other diseases – F. Byrne

1950

1950 02 03

Notice of the first compulsory purchase order ever to be made in Cambridge by the central Land Board is given today. It is in respect of a plot of land on the western side of Strangeways Road, Cherry Hinton and authorises them to purchase the land for the purpose of disposing of it for development. Their object is to make land available at the proper price for persons who have a licence to build a house.

1950 02 04

A start has been made on the construction of 38 garages on the Walpole Road housing estate in Cambridge using a new system of mortar less block construction known as “Dri-crete”. This patented concrete block is the invention of a local businessman, Mr B.F. Hartley, who has been a manufacturer of concrete products for several years. The British Art Tile Company of Cambridge and Whittlesey are the patentees and manufacturers 50 02 04

1950 04 28

Cambridge housing commission received a deputation from the Gothic and Doric streets tenants' committee asking that the houses be demolished. A number were living in over-crowded conditions and the houses were infested with vermin. Coun. Proctor said “We have definitely got very bad houses and the housing position is terrible”. But the council informed the Ministry of Health that they did not require a NAAFI hut at Fenner's sports ground which had been offered to be taken over as temporary housing accommodation

1950 07 06

Using pre-cast and interlocking concrete blocks three men laid the equivalent of 3,000 bricks in just under 3½ hours on the Newmarket Road housing estate, Cambridge. The blocks, patented under the name of “Dri-Crete” are the results of research by Mr B. F. Hartley, director of the British Art Tile Co. of Mill Road. During 1950 two houses have been erected at the new satellite town of Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington, using the blocks. Members of the Dri –Crete Association visited Papworth to see farm buildings erected from the blocks and to Waterbeach RAF station to inspect Dri-Crete walls 50 07 06

1950 08 12

Cambridge's population now 90,000. Borough have built 1,347 new houses, 350 temporary houses, private builders 215 new & 6 rebuilt - 50 08 12 [2.7]

1951

1951 02 03

A pair of “Unity” houses have been completed on the council estate between Queen Edith's Way and Cherry Hinton Road. There are 48 three-bedroomed and four two-bedroomed flats being built with a steel frame covered with concrete slabs in two colours – buff and brown. Lattice steel floor joists are used to save timber. The council have entered into a contract for these houses to speed up production and augment their programme of traditional building 51 02 03

1951 03 14

Approval of the layout of the new housing estate between Gilbert Road and Arbury Road is to be recommended by Cambridge council. Sites are provided for three-storey flats, semi-detached and blocks of four houses, a church, community centre, shops, cinema, public house and a nursery school.

1951 03 21

An appeal for the introduction of “a colossal scheme of temporary housing” to try and surmount the present housing difficulties in Cambridge was made by the chairman of the Cambridge Housing Society. The need for two-bedroomed houses is still desperate and young married couples with no children who applied for a council house in the latter part of 1946 still have to wait two or three more years, they report

1951 05 19

Borough’s 2,000th house, 38 Whitehill Road - 51 05 19 [2.9]

1951 09 07

Tenants of 34 huts on the Donkey Common “Estate”, Cambridge, are feeling anxious about their security of tenure. They regard a letter from the City Treasurer as a veiled threat for them to leave their make-shift homes. Residents say they have no bath facilities, water closets adjoin each other and are therefore not fully private, there are no doors on the bedrooms and that they suffer from dampness, mice, ants and ‘many other forms of insect life’. They add: “We intend to remain here until equal or better accommodation is provided by the City Housing Committee”

1951 09 17

There must be a great many single business and professional women living in “digs” in Cambridge who just long for a small self-contained flat or flatlet of their own. One organisation anxious to do something is the National Federation of Business Professional Women’s Clubs, which has a building society of its own, the Probus Women’s Housing Society. The Cambridge B.P. club is now considering whether to buy houses. If they do go ahead it will look out for a house suitable for conversion into flats. It is good to see this club, which has a strong social sense, trying to do something really practical for its members 51 09 17

1951 10 20

Problems of vandalism by under-5s on council estates – 51 10 20 [2.11]

1952

1952

Advertisement invited people to build own homes, Brimley Rd; formed self-build association [446.9.7]

1952 08 09

Minister grants City appeal over Queen Edith’s Way houses, County had opposed – 52 08 09 [2.14]

1952 08 09

Cambridge city council won its appeal against the refusal of the County Council to grant planning permission for the erection of houses on land fronting Queen Edith’s Way on either side of the approach to Wulfstan Way. The plots were intended for former owners of land which had been sterilised by the revocation of planning permission on the Ventress Farm Estate. They could be sold at a reasonable price as compared with that now commonly asked for building land near Cambridge, where there was a serious shortage of sites available for private builders. The county had wanted sufficient land left open to preserve a view of the shopping centre. 52 08 09

1952 09 04

“The more houses the City Council give us to build, the more we can put up. We have been in Cambridge five years and can put up 400 houses as quickly as it takes to erect 50”, said the foreman of Messrs John Mowlem’s 150-house estate at Fisher’s Lane, Cherry Hinton. A flag is now flying from the chimney of their 1,000th house in Cambridge. The fitting of the chimney stack is the traditional moment for celebration in the form of a bottle of beer all round for the workmen. The Poles working on this site are familiar with the practice which has existed in Europe for hundreds of years. A dinner-dance is being planned to celebrate when the house is handed over to the Council 52 09 04

1952 10 13

Sales of council houses discussed – 52 10 13 [2.16]

1952 10 11

City have built 2,000 non-traditional houses since war – 52 10 11 [2.15]

1952 10 18

5000th Unity steel & concrete house opened by Ernest Marples, on need to cut costs by reducing standards he says one has 'got to stop somewhere, otherwise would be building little pigeon-houses with one room downstairs & one upstairs - 52 10 18[2.17]

1952 12 17

Mayor suggests now clear slum areas & build large blocks of flats instead of taking acres of agricultural land [2.17]

1953

1953

Despite all the building by 1953 there was a 15 year waiting list for council houses & in 1954 1,250 houses were reported unfit for human beings to live in with another 160 condemned before the war. Planned replacement of 500 houses every year was exceeded & 200 of every 500 new council houses built each year were set aside for rehousing people from little streets of unfit houses. However as properties deteriorated by 1959 there were between 3,000 or 4,000 houses worthy of clearance under the 1957 Housing Act such as those in Prospect Row many people did not want to move however production means standardisation to keep prices down [14]. Residential homes for old people were also started, Langdon House being completed in 1955 by Cambridge Housing Society to be followed by warden-controlled flats.

1953 01 13

A large number of Cambridge people have made applications to the City Council for licences to build their own homes, since the Government announcement that anyone could build a house of up to 1,000 square feet. Circulars have been sent to all people on the council housing list asking them if they want to build. Provided the authority is satisfied that the cost of erecting a house is reasonable the licence is granted automatically. The cost of building a house is about £1,300 and with the aid of a mortgage comes within the scope of an £8-a-week wage-earner. It is possible to have more expensive fittings than those generally used in council houses; if a bath in a council house costs £5 a person wanting to install one costing £25 would be allowed the difference in building his own house. 53 01 13

1953 03 13

15 year waiting list for council house – 54 03 13 [3.1]

1953 03 13

Plans for slum-clearing within Cambridge and for the transfer of tenants from under-occupied properties were outlined at the city council. At present people on the 5,000-strong waiting list will have to wait as long as 15 years for a home. Ald Langdon said: "Cambridge has been expanding into the countryside, but inside it is rotten to the core. We have got to clear the slum houses which are a great expense to the council, but what are we going to do with the people living in dilapidated houses which were condemned before the war". The council is now concentrating on providing smaller dwellings and blocks of flats, but land will be very scarce in the future. 53 03 13

1953 10 07

For four years Mr Ken Allen had had his name down on the waiting lists for a council house. After all that time he decided he would wait no longer – and he set to work to build his own home. On Monday he stood under his own roof. Inside and out nearly a score of self-builders, members of the Cambridge Self-Build Housing Association were putting in the window frames, hammering home the

floorboards, measuring here, sawing there and generally completing the interior of his house in time for moving in before Christmas. The six-roomed semi-detached dwelling on the Arbury Road housing site will have cost £1,300 – and for that he gets a house worth £2,000. 53 10 07

1953 10 29

Arbury smallholders given notice that the land is required for building – 53 10 29 [3.3]

1953 12 10

A house has been erected in Cambridge using 'Niblock' mortarless concrete block units for the external and internal walls. Patented by a local man and made by Messrs Jackson Bros of Coldham's Road, they are hollow, allowing a high degree of thermal insulation and the actual building of the walls can be carried out quite quickly, largely by unskilled labour saving cost. Other buildings such as boundary walls or pigsties have proved singularly dry and warm and without doubt 'Niblocks' will figure greatly in future building activities. 53 12 10

1954

1954

Only major items not approved are site of bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel & the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Rd during 1st 5-yearly period of the plan. 10 houses Netherhall Way for key workers recruited from away by CUP [18]

1954 03 12

The Mayor said that 1,000 council houses had been built in Cambridge in less than two years but the waiting list continued to grow so that today we have more people waiting for houses than we had at the start; the list stands at over 5,000. How many will get council houses within the next two years is hard to say; the land in the Council's possession is sufficient only to build another 1,800 houses and flats. Replying to criticism of 'housing foreigners' he said that applicants of foreign nationality had been given council houses but they were naturalised and had a right to be considered in their turn. It is imperative that the fullest use be made of the accommodation at their disposal 54 03 12

1954 12 01

The Ministry of Housing is prepared to hand over the emergency housing units on Donkey Common to Cambridge city council. Planning permission for the continued use of the huts as living accommodation has been given until 30th September 1957 or until such time as major repairs are required. The huts can then be removed and the land reinstated as a public open space. 54 12 01

1955

1955

Cambridge Housing Society Langdon House residential home old people completed [18]

1955 01 21

A proposal to sell up to 300 plots of the Arbury Road housing estate for private building was question by City Councillors. Messrs Mowlem had asked for plots for 100 houses and William Sindall were interested in another 29 fronting Arbury Road. The council was faced with slum clearance and would have to buy land to re-house the people displaced. The Housing Committee existed to provide as many houses for people as possible and if builders offered to erect 300 houses with subsidy, without adding to the rates or national taxation then they could to welcome them. But people affected by slum clearance would not be able to afford these houses 55 01 21

1955 02 02

Plans are going ahead for the new Arbury Road Estate which should in time take a large bite out of Cambridge's 4,337 housing waiting list. Stage one will include about 240 houses, flats and bungalows; a shopping centre; two churches (Church of England and Methodist); a cinema and a public house. Already roads and sewers have been laid and it is hoped to start building some of the

houses this year. But the shops will be a longer-job and will be built to keep pace with the demand. The new Primary School should be occupied this September. The land to the south of Arbury Road will ultimately accommodate 1,600 families in Council and privately-owned houses and it is possible the land to the north may be developed along the same lines. 55 02 02

1955 02 18

Houses in York Street were “drab and monotonous”; they were typical of the “very densely populated part of Cambridge and the sort of house you visualise when you talk of slum property”, a Judge was told when a man claimed possession of a property in Milford Street. He had bought it in 1944 and now wished to live there; he’d offered the tenants alternative accommodation in York Street. But they objected to the move saying it was “a most unattractive and drab street” and that changing houses would put them “down the social scale”. The Judge agreed saying the two streets were entirely different in character and the houses not in any way comparable” 55 02 18

1955 06 29

Cambridge has 1,350 dwellings unfit for human habitation including 100 in the East Road, Gothic and Doric Street areas. The Council is to submit proposals for the demolition of 500 dwellings in the next five years and the remainder within the following seven. But three condemned cottages at Brookside in Toft have been reinstated by the Cottage Improvement Society and now make a charming group in this beautiful yet little known corner of the village - 55 06 29

1955 07 27

The Medical Officer for Cambridge says houses in Trinity Place together with warehouses to the rear of King Street are unfit for human habitation; they are dangerous and injurious to the health of the inhabitants & should be demolished. People living there will be asked to quit within two months with the Council finding alternative accommodation - 55 07 27

1955 09 16

On the map in 10 weeks. The first completed dwelling on the Arbury Road estate extension, designed and built by Monkman of Halifax Road, Cambridge was started on 1st July 1955 and occupied on the 17th September. – Advert 55 09 16b [3.5]

1955 10 15

The condition of the huts on Donkey Common has steadily deteriorated and they should only be let to families requiring emergency accommodation who can be rehoused by September 1957. Some are so bad they will have to be closed before that and when the worst of them become vacant they should not be re-let. The Council should purchase 50 premises due for demolition and carry out minimum repairs to allow them to be occupied temporarily. 55 10 15b

1955 10 24

Since 1952 Cambridge has sold 84 pre-war and three post-war council houses. They were going to be lived in whether they were bought or rented and people ought to be able to buy them if they wanted. They had plenty of money to spend and wanted to use it for repayments on house loans instead of frittering it away. If we can sell the whole lot, we shall”, declared Ald Langden. But pre-war council houses sold for £400 and it cost about £1,300 to replace them at present day prices. To say that encouraging people to own the houses would make more them responsible citizens was a most unworthy argument. 55 10 24a

1956

1956

Arbury Road rapidly growing, a new town in miniature; in 1st decade century little but County Council smallholdings, poultry farm & laundry; by 1920 most houses on West side near Milton Rd erected; post WWI fields converted University Tennis Courts, George VI & Duke of Gloucester played; Arbury Camp farm the central pedigree poultry farm of Chivers Farms, established 40 years [446..8.5]

1956 01 03

Cyril Bailey, partner in the well-known building firm of Johnson and Bailey, spent the whole of his life in Cambridge. He was apprenticed as a carpenter and joiner, working on aircraft production in the First World War and founded the firm in 1919. He devoted his life to the business up to the time of his death and was a past President of the Master Builders' Association. A man of pleasing personality and of a charming and unassuming manner he will be greatly missed. 56 01 03

1956 03 06

The Lord Mayor of London visited Cambridge to open a new block of flats for old people at Honey Hill, Northampton Street. It was the first such visit and brought a glimpse of the pageantry in which the true Londoner takes great pride. In 1936 the frontage had been bought by the council with a quarter of the cost paid by Cambridge Preservation Society and Magdalene College. But the war intervened and the site was a blot for many years. Now the Mayor presented the keys to the first tenants, Mr & Mrs H.C. Rogers 56 03 06a-d

1956 06 25

Cambridge Business and Profession Women's Club opened their block of flats on Harding Way and handed six lucky women their keys to brand new self-contained homes. They have coal bunkers and Ascot hot-water heaters for sinks and baths. Faced with the overwhelming need for accommodation for single ladies in Cambridge, when it proved impossible to find a house, they had the braveness and energy to find £1,000 to form their own housing society. 56 06 25

1956 11 10

Garry Drive, a private street and a cul-de-sac just off King's Hedges Road which ends at the railway, was constructed by a Mr Naylor. He put down kerbs and channels and in May 1939 was contemplating finishing the road himself, but the war intervened. He then left for Australia but his wife owns three properties and has written from Melbourne objecting to the council's proposed charge for making up the road. 56 11 10b

1957

1957 01 08

Cyril Ridgeon and Sons staged a gala night for their 160 employees at Cambridge Guildhall. The company began in 1911 and in 1913 took a small piece of ground in Tenison Road for their first depot and in 1922 bought their first solid-tired lorry. During the second war they worked with the Ministry to get materials off to the bombed areas quickly. Now they had a staff of 160 with 28 lorries and vans and 13 cars. 57 01 08 & 08a

1957 02 25

Keys to a bungalow at 246 Green End Road House were officially handed over to its first occupants, Mr & Mrs L. Hart, by the Mayor. It is the 4,000 council house completed since 1945- an average of 353 houses each year. The 1000th was opened in Peverel Road in December 1948, the 2,000th in Whitehill Road in May 1953 and the 3,000th in Colville Road, March 1952. The site had been an eyesore, now it is a tremendous improvement. 57 02 25c, 57 02 09, 57 02 22[3.10,3.11]

1957 04 16

Cambridge city council may purchase the 350 temporary bungalows from the Ministry of Housing for £150 each. They are suitable for elderly couples and can be kept sound for another ten years. They could also purchase big houses to let as flats to business people, starting with no.20 Beche Road which has already been converted into five flats. 57 04 16

1957 07 25

John Mowlem, 'a famous name in building' have a number of houses in Tedder Way, Hurrell Road and Harding Way on the Arbury Road Estate ready for immediate occupation. First class construction, part central heating and decorations to the purchaser's choice. Prices from £2,550 on easy purchase

terms: deposit £255 and repayments from £3.9.6. per week. You are cordially invited to inspect the show house at 42 Hurrell Road which is open daily – advert 57 07 25a

1957 09 25

3-storey flats being built Cherry Hinton housing estate - 57 09 25 [3.2]

1957 10 03

The tallest residential block in England may be erected in Hills Road. It would tower 135 feet high and, with a series of smaller blocks, accommodate 161 families. The 15-storey building would be of slender design, using modern materials to create homes for today, not pale imitations of the past. It will provide homes for the middle classes who have been saddled with houses at a cost beyond their means which, on re-sale, show a loss of hundreds of pounds. 57 10 03 a & b [494.4.2] [3.16]

1958

1958 03 11

East Road district heating plan abandoned – 58 03 11

1958 04 09

Are you looking for an elegant, spacious, contemporary flat in Cambridge? Situated at Newton Road, a first-class residential district, and designed by a leading domestic architect, this flat is civilised. It is acoustically insulated, thermally insulated, light, labour-saving and spacious. There are two bedrooms, a most un-British kitchen and bathrooms, your own drying balcony, space heating and a garage if you want it. Price £3,200. Span Developments advertisement. 58 04 09b, 58 03 29a

1958 08 23

James Ison of Girton is a well-known stonemason who has worked on many college buildings including King's college chapel, where he made the pinnacles, and Caius where he assisted William Topper with the carvings on the Gate of Honour and Gate of Virtue. He also made the foundation stone for the new Catholic Church in Milton Road. Now he started his own business and has carved the gargoyles and medallions that are going to help restore the second court of St John's. 58 08 23a

1958 10 09

Doric Street & Gothic Street demolished for car park – 53 10 09 [3.17]

1959

1959 01 08

Ridgeons celebrate their silver jubilee – 59 01 08 [3.9]

1959 02 09

The new Span flats at Newton Road have been built around a central garden court and amongst the carefully preserved remains of an old orchard. More trees and shrubs have been planted and the whole outlook is truly Arcadian. The flats are, briefly, superb with practically every mod.con. yet developed including unfreezeable plumping, effective thermal insulation, built-in wardrobes and an incredibly convenient kitchen. Each has two double bedrooms, bathroom and breakfast-cornered kitchen. The price is £3,200 for a 99-year lease – Advert 59 02 09

1959 02 27

Having completed their flat project at Applecourt on Newton Road, Span Developments have just announced several big redevelopment plans. One is a 15-story high tower block of flats in Hills Road where two Victorian houses have been demolished but the magnificent trees standing in their gardens are to be left undisturbed. Another is a complete new village planned for Histon Road. They are also negotiating a scheme for factory development which will bring more well-paid work to the Cambridge area. 59 02 27, 59 03 01 & 01a

1959 04 01

All the 100 houses planned for the first part of the Scotland Farm Estate by the Hundred Houses Society were completed last year and handed over to tenants at rents of £3 a week. Already the new character of the estate is taking shape. The design of the terraces of houses in varying numbers and the use of contrasting colours for individual doors avoids the danger of monotony. Inevitably the ground still has a somewhat bare appearance but much solid spade work is being put into the gardens. These well-designed houses are making a real contribution to the accommodation problem in Cambridge 59 04 01b

1959 05 20

One of the recently-built council flats in Carlton Way has been opened to give prospective tenants an opportunity to inspect the types of homes to be offered, get an idea of the amount of furniture they will hold and take measurements for curtains and carpets. Each has an indoor coal bunker and its own shed. They are intended for older people whose families have grown up and left them with empty rooms. The rent is 16s.8d (84p) a week 59 05 20

1959 10 30

John Line new wallpaper showroom – 59 10 30c

1959 12 21

Cambridge has a slum problem - damp & lack air & light; in 1954 had 1,250 unfit & 160 condemned before war but now probably 3-4,000 merit consideration for clearance; Robert Davies : people 'do not want to move to Arbury Rd, people replaced with demolition should get new houses in old area; plans for East Rd clearance area will provide 100 new homes for lucky ones many of houses now to be demolished are over 100 years old; built by small speculators to standards of time near centre meet demand of natural increase in population; now concern at inadequate ventilation - blank wall at back, artificial light, lavatories, water supply, drainage through people do not want to move but like it when they move - 59 12 21 [17]

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960s

Cambridge Housing Society warden controlled sheltered flats Oban Court & Crossways Gardens & 6 more houses CUP employees Chartfield Rd 60s & 70s Cambridge Housing Society properties modernised; Castle Row property improved & let to castle Project for people recovering psychiatric illness

1960

1960 01 26

The first of five blocks of flats at Sherlock Close have been completed. Designed by the London architects, James and Bywaters, and built and owned by Peploe and Partners Ltd, the estate will eventually have 60 flats and 40 garages. Designed around two enclosed gardens they will resemble college courts. They have two bedrooms and are warmed by a gas operated space heater. The use of pine panelling, which has been lightly waxed, and polished hardwood-lined doors give the flats a Swedish appearance 60 01 26

1960 03 12

The Minister has confirmed compulsory purchase orders concerning houses in Norfolk Street which the City Council are anxious to pull down for the second stage of the East Road redevelopment scheme. The area affected was generally dilapidated, over-crowded and of a demolition standard with some of the buildings giving a general impression of decay. Now they can go ahead with erecting new houses, flats and shops 60 03 12

1960 03 16

One of the landmarks of Cambridge which has overlooked the city for about 60 years was demolished. The 100-foot chimney on the Newmarket Road once belonged to one of the city's brickworks which closed down about a year ago owing to the lack of clay. A large portion of the base of the chimney was cut away and propped up by wooden supports. These were then set alight using paraffin and wood shavings and smoke gushed from the top of the chimney for the last time before it fell slowly and gracefully to the ground. The actual kilns have already been demolished to make way for Watts and Son, timber importers 60 03 16

1960 04 26

William Topper who left school when he was nine years old and who has worked with his hands for the last 70 years is to be made an honorary Master of Arts of the University, becoming the first master stonemason to receive one. He has restored the Gate of Honour at Caius College, replacing pieces which had been missing for 300 years and has been in the Senate House once before, when he laid some tiles. Now he will take the day off from work and in mortar board and gown receive the degree from the Vice-Chancellor. 60 04 26b

1960 08 26

Houses in Prospect Row and Brandon Place will be compulsorily purchased and demolished. Most of the 62 properties were overcrowded, suffering from dampness, deteriorating woodwork and perishing plaster. A Government Inspector agreed they were unsuitable for human habitation. But resident say the Council are trying to get the property 'on the cheap' and they are not being offered adequate compensation. 60 08 26

1969 08 31

People living in cottages shortly to be demolished in Prospect Row and Brandon Place described conditions. One housewife told of hearing rats at the back door, "I found the hole and covered it with coal". Another spoke of having two rats in the house which is so damp she has to redecorate once a year. "My eldest boy, who is four, catches cold after cold and I shall be glad when we move. I don't care where it is as long as it has three bedrooms and a bathroom", she says. A Ministry inspector said the properties were unfit for human habitation. But an 81-year-old lady who has lived in her house for 11 years said: "I can't understand why they want to knock them down". 60 08 31a

1960 09 09

McManus, the company that caused a stir when they agreed to pay £4,500 an acre for land have decided to put up terraced houses rather than the traditional semi-detached properties on their projected estate between Histon Road and Windsor Road. They call it an experiment in contemporary living that can accommodate the same number of families but with a greater amount of open space around the houses for children to play on. The houses are selling for nearly £2,400 60 09 09a

1960

1960 09 20

Are 32 thatched properties in Cambridge – 60 09 20 [9.1]

1960 10 20

Stanton House flatlets in Christ Church Street provide luxurious accommodation for 29 old people. Each has a bed sitting room, with the bed space behind a curtain partition, a small electric cooker and fitted wall electric fire. Lavatory and bathroom accommodation is in conformity with Ministry requirements with an emergency bell. There is a large lounge with an open fireplace where old folk can spend their evenings in each other's company and a large open patio with fish pond and fountain. Central heating and lighting is included in the rent of thirty shillings a week. 60 10 20

1961

1961

Demolition of house at entrance to Manor Farm to form Campkin Road [4.10]

1961 02 07

Rattee & Kett working in Downing Street – 61 02 07

1961 02 24

Houses in Chesterton High Street and Green End Road have been subject to a demolition order since January 1960. Their occupants have gradually been re-accommodated and their homes abandoned. Now only two families remain. It is an eerie feeling to have empty houses on either side, especially when they are broken into, the wallpaper ripped and the boarded-up windows damaged. Once they have been rehoused the rickety four-roomed homes with their primitive sanitation will be pulled down for re-development. 61 02 24

1961 05 25

In 1911 Cyril Ridgeon set up in timber and the products of the Cam Cement Company at Meldreth. These prospered and he was able to rent a small area in the Tenison Road Wharf of the Great Eastern Railway Company. The initial buildings were modest and deliveries could only be made by horsed horse drawn transport – very different from the fleet of lorries and vans now in operation. Over 50 years it has grown into a concern employing 200 people supplying every kind of building material required. 61 05 25

1961 09 22

Demolition in Ram Yard has revealed a brick inscribed '1509'. Its size indicates that it was part of a batch produced shortly after 1790 when the Government imposed a brick tax. As a result bricks suddenly became larger so fewer were needed to build a house. A firm at Bourn made outsize bricks of a four-inch depth, which can be seen all over the village. A very handsome gault brick was made by a Barnwell firm. These are still very much in demand and when properties are demolished they are salvaged for reuse. The Shire Hall was built from such old bricks which fetch £11 a thousand. 61 09 22a

1961 10 06

A newly-built Canadian wooden house on the Girton Road is attractive visually. The exterior is finished in cedar shingles, the interior panelling and door frames are pine, the doors mahogany, the lounge has parana wood panelling and the ceilings are of plaster-board. Decorating costs have been cut to a minimum: the interior walls are papered, then covered with a thin film of plastic. It cost more than a comparable five-bedroomed house, but its upkeep costs far less. The new owners are delighted 61 10 06a

1961 10 10

Cyril Ridgeon is celebrating 50 years of service to the building trade. Never before has Cambridge seen so many outstanding changes as old out-dated premises are giving way to the modern shops and houses demanded by today's standard of living. Its depot at Cavendish Road has a specialised department dealing in Formica while fully-loaded lorries carry timber treated against rot by a Tanalising Plant, ensuring it an almost indefinite life. In the Slabbing Shop a large range of artistic fireplaces are manufactured in tile, mosaic and marble 61 10 10a

1961 12 01

Nightingale Avenue means something new in elegant living. It means spacious, modern four-bedroomed detached houses of quality and character by Trend Homes. Here is a rare opportunity to buy an exclusive architect designed house in a first-class position. Each will have the wonderful boon of oil fired heating, built-in wardrobes and French doors to a paved terrace. Price from £5,250 – Advert 61 12 01c

1962

1962

Arbury 11-storey flats plan - protest [494.4.13]

1962 02 01

The changing face of old Cambridge will soon see further demolition. Already a number of houses have been pulled down in Shelley Row and four more are to follow including one boasting an elegant example of a Mansard roof. The building on the corner of Leeke Street and Newmarket Row, known as Mendicity House, formerly provided lodgings for beggars following the Napoleonic War. It was later purchased by the Industrial Dwellings Company, set up to improve the inadequate housing in the Barnwell area. It is now Harris' butcher shop. 62 02 01b & c # c.61 # c.32.9

1963 02 12

Cambridge City Council may sell 16 of its new homes, which have cost about £2,700 each to build (about £44,500 today), for a deposit of only £5 – with the buyer being allowed up to 30 years to repay the balance. The houses are in Jolley Way and Kent Way, new roads on the Arbury Estate. The City Treasurer says the scheme has been proposed as an experiment; it is the first time the idea has been suggested for Cambridge 63 02 12

1962 03 03

None of the aluminium bungalows owned by Cambridge city council is in urgent need of demolition because of corrosion, an inspection has found. However work should be started on pulling down the 100 bungalows at Church End, Cherry Hinton, within two years. This would allow for the area to be cleared for redevelopment. The 135 temporary bungalows in Fisher's Lane, Roseford Close, Walpole Road and on the Green Park Estate were not in such as bad state 62 03 03 a & b

1962 03 22

A police dog and handler make nightly patrols of Prospect Row where Irish labourers are camping out in empty houses, sleeping on wet mattresses and ripping up floor boards to make fires in the open grates. The houses will be demolished when a home is found for 82 year-old Lily Wilkin, who has lived in the Row all her life. Meanwhile Corporation workmen are stapling strong wire mesh over doors and windows in nearby Brandon Place and Adam and Eve Street. But no attempt can be made to clear the rubbish which litters many of the tiny backyards. 62 03 22

1962 05 02

Highsett, Hills Road, comprises elegant town houses in a sheltered green and pleasant place. Designed by a leading architect, they include a large living room, study, two double bedrooms and well-equipped kitchen. House warming is by underfloor heating, thermostatically controlled. No cold spots, no stocking, no dust. Good insulation keeps running costs down. They are grouped round a central landscaped green maintained through a Residents Society which is also responsible for structural repairs and external decoration. First house ready soon on 99 years lease, £4,975. Span Developments. Advert 62 05 02a

1963

1963 04 24

Building Information Centre opens [8.6]

1963 04 04

Rapidly developing McManus estate, Histon Rd; 400 units of housing built by 1969 [446.13.6]

1963 05 24

McManus for value in Cambridge. The Chesterton Estate, Histon Road, offers spacious three-bedroom terrace houses with attractive tile-hung elevations and in-built fuel stores with a garage nearby if required, for £2,895. Detached two-bedroom bungalows, £3,395; semi-detached £2,695. A decorated show house is available for inspection fitted with central heating in the form of Sager Tangential Flow fan heaters. Maximum Mortgages available – Advert. 63 05 24a

1963 07 05

Electronic computers are being used by W. & C. French to speed the building of New Hall at Huntingdon Road. The severe weather delayed progress for three months but with their aid it is hoped they will still finish within the deadline. It is the first time computers have been used in this region to devise a logical schedule of jobs to be carried out & grading them according to importance. The college dining hall is taking shape with its elegant dome using ferro-concrete previously used in boat building. A huge crane is playing a major part to gain lost time 63 07 05f

1963 09 11

Council offers almost 100% mortgages over periods of up to 30 years for houses selling £2,850, Haviland Way – 63 09 11[9.4]

1964

1964 01 25

Darwin Drive houses built 30 years ago, many have no hot water, bath in scullery & outside lavatories – 64 01 25 [9.5]

1964 03 26

Clunch was for centuries an important material but now the old quarries have fallen into disuse except as sources of stone for road-mending and fen-embanking. Sometimes the waste rubble was burnt for unslaked lime and the limekilns in Carter's Quarry at Burwell were used as air raid shelters. They are still there, derelict and tumble-down with the shed that once housed the transport horses. Part of the interior of Heydon Church, bombed during the war, was rebuilt with clunch and at Lode a new chapel, built entirely with clunch, was added by Lord Fairhaven when builders had to be specially trained for the work. 64 03 26

1964 05 05

Sindall Concrete Products Ltd have built a pair of semi-detached houses on their Cherry Hinton Rectory Farm estate which could lead to revolutionary changes in the building industry. The houses can be erected and completed in two days using precision-made concrete panels with built-in insulation and wallpaper or emulsion can be applied direct to the walls. There is a choice of pitched or flat roof types lifted into place by a crane and a brick outer face can be added to give a traditional appearance. 64 05 05 (little success- 1967) 67 12 13 [9.6]

1964 06 07

Building boom, new & vast housing estates mushrooming in Cambridge builders never had it so good; but shortage of bricks, industrialised methods being considered 64 06 17 [13]

1964 06 13

Pre-fabricated aluminium bungalows Church End Cherry Hinton to be made safe, suffer corrosion – 64 06 13a

1964 06 15

Cambridge housing squalor – squatters; 500 houses have no hot water, 5,000 no bath, 640 no flush lavatories – 64 06 15a

1964 06 16

City council housing problems : up to about 10 years ago cars were hardly considered when planning new estates, now average parking provisions for 1.3 cars per family; latest Kings Hedges road project includes central heating; move in emphasis from 3-bed family houses to individual units; mass production means standardisation to keep prices down – 64 06 16 [14]

1964 06 16

Prefabs may be answer to city's house problems; cars not considered when planning new estates; survey King's Hedges – 64 06 16a

1964 08 29

Kite vast rehousing unenviable task- nearly 1000 houses & 65 acres in twilight zone [494.8.10]

1964 11

Over 8,500 houses built since war, 5,619 by council, 2,973 private; 1,000 houses demolished as part of slum clearance scheme 1955-64 [7.5]

1965

1965 01 08

A shortage of bricks and labour problems, caused by the high wastage of recruits who complete their training before deciding that building is not for them, has forced Cambridge Council to experiment with a timber-based system for 32 houses on the Arbury Estate. Each costs nearly £800 more than conventional houses but traditional methods mean they would not be able to provide the 500 houses needed. The situation was exacerbated by the 200-odd eroding prefabs that have to be completely replaced almost immediately. But the Ministry of Housing rejected their plans saying it was too expensive— 65 01 01 Cambridge Factory-built houses rejected by minister but approves industrialised dwellings for Fulbourn – 65 01 08a

1965 01 12

A new German machine at Milton owned by Cambridge Precast Stone can produce enough bricks to build a house in less than two hours, thus helping to beat the national brick shortage. It is the biggest installation in the country and will enable the firm to supply orders from builders' merchants. It comprises a dragline feeding aggregate to a mixer where cement and colouring are added. The moisture content is measured by an automatic 'Hydrobot' device. The mix is fed to the moulds for vibrating and tamping before the completed bricks are delivered on pallets to an off-loading conveyor 65 01 12a

1965 08 18

final phase of Arbury plan, 25 acres between Arbury Road, Campkin Road & Kings Hedges Road, taking 11 acres from Green Belt but providing 20 acres for recreation, 2 primary schools & nursery schools to be built; well-balanced development – 65 08 18 [9.7]

1966

1966 08 13

Since 1945 council built 5942 houses & 344 under construction; private builders 3398 completed, 324 started - 66 08 13 [9.8]

1967

1967 02 03

Kings Hedges master plan goes ahead, revised plan accepted [494.5.7]

1967 03 30

Demolition in Newtown district [494.5.8]

1967 06 13

City council sub-standard houses to be updated with prefabricated bathrooms and lavatories attached to back of homes – 67 06 13, 67 06 28

1967 06 28

51 bolt-on bathrooms installed Akeman St area, 500 complaints within year - 67 06 28, 68 06 06 [9.9,9.10]

1967 08 09

Is shortage of £3,000 houses for young couples – 67 08 09 [9.11]

1968

1968 01 29

City build 309, private 135 houses in 1968 – 69 01 29 [9.13]

1968 03 08

McManus to quit Cambridge. Sell 6a building land for £100,000 as planners will not allow them to develop it as commercially as they wish 68 03 08b

1969 03 19

Front of McManus estate on Histon Road, which has been derelict for several years, is to be developed; new firm hopes to start work on 63-house estate – 69 03 19a

1968 03 26

Fitzroy Street – Burleigh St residents fear city council intend to demolish good houses under slum-clearance scheme – 68 03 26

1968 03 29

Large-scale slum clearance scheme Kite - 68 03 29 [9.12]

1969 04 03

Cambridge prefabs to be demolished – feature; have gone from Church End, Walpole Road and Fisher's Lane; leaves 40 at Gilbert Close and in Lichfield Road – Golding Rad area – 69 04 03

1969 04 25

Seek permission buy 58 slum houses, Kite, at £80,000 – 69 04 25

1969 05 01

Tanner and Hall roofers move from Hills Road railway siding to new offices at Harston, formed in 1953 – 69 05 01, 01a

1969 12 04

New estate at Church End, Cherry Hinton built to Parker Morris standards, laid out on Radburn plan grouping houses in courtyards without traffic; lay out standards but difficult keep within cost allowed; can exceed by 10% but lose Ministry subsidy on extra amount, if cost any higher ministry refuse loan sanction; rents for 2-bed £3.12.2, 3-bed £4.3.0 (rates etc extra) – 69 12 04 [15]

`a

1970

1970

Cambridge brick Company wound up [7.7]

1970 03 11

James Street resident commits suicide – 70 03 11 [9.14]

1971

1971 03 19

Arbury residents cut off from shops; is functional and austere, offering adequate homes at economic rents and a place to sleep. But few pensioners can afford price of bus ride to centre and council puts off cheap bus fare scheme – 71 03 19a

1971 04 02

6,000 properties could become the slums of tomorrow unless deterioration is halted and basic amenities installed – 71 04 02

1971 10 18

Cambridge first local authority get Improvement Area projects off ground since Government announced them 2 years ago – 71 10 18 [9.15]

1971 12 22

Prime, Cambridge building firm started more than 150 years ago cease trading, main yard at Adam & Eve Street – 71 12 22

1972

1972 01 01

3-bed semi costs over £6,000 – 72 01 01[10.1]

1972 04 27

Government plans to release land for private housing, stop hoarding which causing house prices to spiral; 6 acres sold Arbury – 72 04 27, 72 07 08 [10.2,10.4]

1972 05 08

Are 2,700 outstanding planning permissions – 72 05 08 [10.3]

1972 05 24

Cambridge Squatters group formed May, 2 mothers take house Milton Road; 2nd house Huntingdon Rd; evicted by Kings from Milton Road house – 72 05 24 [15.5]

1972 10 02

City Council taken over John St squat – 72 10 02 [15.6]

1972 10 05

Squatters in John St (others in 1974 & 75) – 72 10 05 [10.18,19]

1972 03 21

As Cambridgeshire house prices soar - in one area up by 100 per cent in six months - estate agents report an acute shortage of houses for sale. And the houses that do come up on the market are snapped up immediately. The agents put the blame on the lack of building land released by the planners and that fact that more people than ever are able to buy their own homes 72 03 21

1972 04 18

The Conservative chairman of the Cambridgeshire Planning Committee, Tony Cornell, has told the Government that local councils should be allowed to buy land compulsorily unless land prices come down quickly. The cheapest houses in Cambridge and county will cost £9,000. And only one fifth of the young couples who want their own home will be able to afford one. What land is coming on the market now is changing hands at £30,000 -£40,000 an acre and rising 72 04 18

1972 05 12

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year 72 05 12

1972 09 16

Cambridge City Council have halted the demolition of some of their old prefab bungalows at Histon Road while officials find out if they could be used for housing Ugandan Asians. The bungalows, which were built shortly after the Second World War as temporary homes, are being demolished to

make way for a large council houses and flats development. A few of the buildings are still occupied but the tenants are due to move shortly 72 09 16

1973

1973

200 squatters occupy Owlstone Croft, Whitehall changes mind & can stay [Misc.5.3];

1973 01 23

Squatters forced from Bateman St – 73 01 23[15.7]

1973 04 25

Plans for 1,200 houses, Cherry Hinton – 73 04 25 [10.5]

1973 06 22

Claims by a prominent Cambridge trades unionist that many bored and disgruntled Cambridge city council tenants were demanding to be moved from the Arbury estate were rejected this afternoon by the Housing Committee chairman, Coun John Powley. The claims were made by Don Millard. He said both young and old people were asking to be moved nearer to the city centre because they were bored with life at Arbury. He added that the boredom was due to the lack of social and community facilities and a dearth of public houses. The claims were supported by Counc Mrs Janet Jones, a Labour county councillor for the area. "Arbury and Kings Hedges are just like an isolated satellite town", she said. "People are always asking us to help them move away because they do not like living there" 73 06 22

1973 10 11

CCAT occupy Owlstone Croft which closed since 1969 – 73 10 11[15.8]

1973 11 01

"All available council housing land will be used up by 1978" – 72 11 01[10.6]

1973 11 19

No more Cambridge council houses will be sold after April 1st – because the waiting list of people who want to rent them is growing daily and building land is running out. The new Labour controlled Cambridge district council also intends to clamp down on speculators who buy old houses cheaply and sell them at big profits after modernising them with the aid of improvement grants. During the last five years almost 300 city council houses have been sold to tenants and a number of other possible sales are in the legal pipeline 73 11 19

1973 12 11

A 160-foot-high chimney that was used in the old days as a furnace for brick-making in the heyday of the Cambridge brick industry is now a pile of bricks, strewn about a sticky clay building site off Coldham's Lane, Cambridge. The chimney was abandoned well before the last war and remained as a blackened reminder of the glories of an industry past its peak. The new owners of the site, J. Coral Estates Ltd, decided they did not need it at their £3 million warehouse and industrial development on the 11 acres they have bought so they blew it up. The bricks will become the fill for part of the new warehouse development already christened the Coral Park Estate 73 12 11

1974

1974

Housing Corporation became major funding source for housing associations 1975

1974 08 07

"Planning controls are responsible for high prices" - Parry Lewis [10.8a]

1974 08 07

£1.24 million land purchase will mean 600 council houses Ditton Lane; first phase 218 agreed 1975
74 08 07 [10.8]

1974 10 10

Rent Act hits landladies, students housing advisory service set up - 75 10 10 [15.4]

1977

1977 02 05

32 lived in boarded-up James street houses - 77 02 05 [15.3]

1977 03 03

Cambridge councillors are considering a new plan for building large numbers of low-price houses. A major building company would build houses to a standard design on a number of council-owned sites; the council would prepare the land, put in sewers and build estate roads. They would then buy the houses from the builders and sell them to young people living in council houses or who are on the waiting list. The plan is linked with a savings scheme aimed at giving first-time homebuyers enough money to put down as a mortgage deposit. Coun. John Powley said: "We are determined to give as many of our tenants as possible the opportunity of buying their own homes - and this is a new way of doing it". 77 03 03

1977 11 14

There are almost 400 properties standing vacant in Cambridge according to the Empty Property Action Group. More than 200 are houses of which the great majority are privately owned. There are 1,026 people on the council's "live" waiting list and another 1,400 seeking council accommodation at some future date. Numerous organisations are seeking accommodation for special groups like the College of Arts and Technology, Women's Aid, Fulbourn Hospital and Cyrenians Night Shelter. The Kite and Castle Street areas share the highest concentration of empty property. The city council are worried that the list could serve as a kind of housing register for squatters. 77 11 14

1977 12 08

Next stage of development announced - 155 houses at Kings Hedges - 77 12 08 [7.3]

1978

1978 04 06

Squatters protest over eviction Kite [494.7.8]

1979

1979 01 04

Kerridge builders into liquidation due financial difficulties (had been sold to Matthews Holdings in 1973 when employed 1,000 & taken over by others) - 79 01 04 [7.8]

1979 01 26

Two hundred people employed by Cambridge building firm R.H. Smart have lost their jobs. Work has ceased on the firm's major council housing jobs at King's Hedges, Arbury, where it contracted to build 214 houses and flats and employed 80 people. The firm began in 1960 as a plumbing business; it started on its first council housing contract in 1974 and took over Newmarket builders M. Carrick. Next year it had contracts worth £4 million to build 400 council houses 79 01 26 [7.13]

1979 07 20

Council house sales stopped, 4,000 on waiting list - 79 07 20 [10.9]

1980

1980

Cambridge Housing Society Danesbury Court for older people on ground floor & young couples on first

1980 01 15

“Self-sufficient house” experiment started 1971 abandoned after death of originator,– 80 01 15 [8.7]

1980 07 21

The name Kerridge is to appear again in the title of a Cambridge building firm. Mr Paul Kerridge, great-grandson of the man who started the group has taken a 75 per cent share in the company which operated for 100 years. It was sold to Matthews Holdings but when that group was taken over the Kerridge part was put up for sale and has since been in several hands. The business will be run from Sturton Street on the site of the original firm's small works department and in the shadow of its former headquarters 80 07 21

1980 08 18

Pre-fab bathrooms need replacing, £320,000 bill- 80 07 18 [10.10]

1980 09 30

Government Housing Act frees council house sales; threaten to put in special commissioner if Labour council don't sell; first sale July; ordered to complete sales preliminaries for 800 houses by December 80 09 30, [10.13-14]

1980 11 14

Over 2,000 people are waiting for a council house in Cambridge with 900 applications this year. New legislation enabling tenants to buy their properties at discount has also caused problems as the Government has banned spending on new building. One way to house more is to reduce the time between a house being vacated and the new occupant being allowed in. But the council often has to call in specialists in dry rot or roofing. Unimproved terrace housing is very expensive costing twice that in Peterborough 80 11 14b [10.12]

1981

1981 05 14

Since 1962 the price of a semi in Perne Road Cambridge has risen from £3,000 to £30,000 and in De Freville it is much higher. The leap in prices in the early 1970s meant that first-time buyers they turned to the Mill Road area and prices rocketed. If you had bought a terraced house in Romsey Town in 1962 it would have cost £1,350. Now it is worth more than £20,000. 81 05 14c

1981 07 09

Mr & Mrs Jack O'Dell, the first Cambridge council house tenants to buy their own homes were given a potted plant when handed the keys to their house in Carlton Way. With a 50 per cent discount the three-bedroomed house has cost them £9,375. More than 800 other tenants have asked to buy since the law was changed last October 81 07 09

1981 07 09

George Pateman Court was built by the Cambridge Housing Society to provide homes for the disabled because they were told the need was acute. But few have applied. The project on Tenison Road has a prime site close to shops and transport and is designed with wide doors for wheelchairs; there are raised gardens and places to charge up electric cars overnight. 81 07 09a

1982

1982 03 18

Cambridge City Council have just sold 191 council houses at an average price of £11,500, with another 550 sales in the pipeline. Anyone who has been a council tenant for three years is entitled to a 30 per cent discount on his house valuation if he decides to buy. It can be a good investment as houses in Cambridge are at such a premium that everything sells, provided the price is right. 82 03 18

1982 09 16

Cambridge isn't an easy place for a couple to buy a house for the first time. The average purchase price is around £22,000 which means finding a deposit of £2,500 and with mortgage interest rates of 12 per cent over 25 years would cost £148.82 a month after tax relief. Currently a modernised Victorian house in Newmarket Road is on sale for £22,250 and a two-bedroomed, centrally-heated house in Stanley Road costs £21,500. 82 09 16 & a

1982 11 04

Newnham is a unique and quite exceptional area of Cambridge, and planners intend to keep it that way. Its 'up-market' aspect is reflected in property prices. A 10-bedroomed house at 5 Cranmer Road recently sold for £145,000 while £38,000 buys a three-bedroomed house in Owlstone Road. Properties in Gough Way fetch about £65,000, Grange Road £59,000 and Hardwick Street £39,500. A flat at Cherwell Court, Barton Road is £38,000 for a 99-year lease while one in Westberry Court is £60,000 82 11 04

1983

1983 04 29

A much-heralded district heating scheme which was installed in 234 council houses and flats at Lichfield Road and Neville Road is being scrapped after only 10 years. The pipes which are buried deep underground leak. There were claims it would be much cheaper but tenants said their homes were unnecessarily hot, giving 70 degrees in living rooms and 65 in bedrooms when temperatures outside were freezing. It will be replaced by individual central heating units in each property. 83 04 29 p9

1983 08 04

Seventeen flats and maisonettes being built as part of the Grafton Centre are now on the market. The flats in Fitzroy Street have a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom & private rooftop terraced areas and sell for £29,500. The maisonettes are on two floors and have two bedrooms, they sell for £42,000. The scheme also includes 22 one-bedroomed flats in Christchurch Street which will be available on a share-ownership basis through the King Street Housing Society. Most have been allocated already 83 08 04 p12

1983 12 05

Three-quarters of lodgings converted homes & hostels in Cambridge area substandard – 83 12 05 [15.1]

1984

1984

Cambridge Housing Society Norwich St group home elderly

1984 02 07

£1M scheme for permanent baths combat mould & damp – 84 02 07 [10.11]

1984 03 01

New flats in Anstey Way, Trumpington, are selling like hot cakes even though the show flat is not yet open. Six were released as an initial step and were sold immediately. They appeal to older people wanting to put an end to the problem of maintaining a big house and garden and most of the ground floor flats have gone to senior citizens. Prices range from £28,450 to £29,450 84 03 01

1984 04 02

Coulson builders celebrate centenary, founded 1884 became Limited Company 1921 – 84 04 02 [7.10]

1984 09 07

"The colonel" was one of Cambridge's best-known characters in the 50s and 60s, John Ingorsol Turpin was the oldest of the brothers who ran a timber yard in Mill Road. It started in 1929 selling

timber from Sweden, Russia and Canada but supplies stopped in 1939 so he started attending household sales. He became as well-known for his second-hand goods shop as his timber-selling; people often spoke of the wonderful bargains they bought for a few shillings, his daughter Margaret Lusher recalled 84 09 07

1984 11 02

Sindall's builders move Headquarters to Sawston, were founded 1881 & incorporated as private company 1953 – 83 11 02 [8.1]

1985

1985

Hostel for 8 mentally handicapped & eight single young Russell St, won award Cambridge Housing Society

1985 07 02

“High-Tech” puts stress on housing”, only 20 council houses started past year – 85 07 02 [10.15]

1985 09 24

“Unity” houses unsaleable – 85 09 24 [10.16]

1986

1986

Railway Houses project Mill Rd - hostel 13 young coming out of care & flatlets young couples & Corona Road refurbished to become hostel for single homeless women, 1st Cambridge

1986 01 02

Cyril Ridgeon began his tiny timber business in one room in St Barnabas Road in 1911. Now the company is celebrating 75 years of trading. During the war they stored timber on behalf of the Government sending supplies down to London to repair blitz-damaged houses. The firm opened branches at March and Saffron Walden and is now planning to move its Tenison Road and Cavendish Road operations to a new site on Coldham's Lane 86 01 07 & a 86 01 02

1986 02 19

When Charles Kidman decided in 1876 to start up his own building business Britain was in the midst of a recession. Yet within 20 years he had built most of Romsey with its distinctive terraced houses plus a whole series of large contract work which enabled him to retire at the tender age of 40! Today, 110 years later, Kidman & Son is a thriving business with another Charles Kidman at the helm determined to maintain the family tradition of personal service coupled with flexibility. From their workshops in Victoria Road teams of bricklayers, carpenters and labourers are on hand for the craft of building 86 02 19b & c

1986 09 18

Clay Farm sit, Trumpington, 70 acres open farm & woodland would give space for 900 houses – 86 09 18 [10.17]

1986 10 07

Squatters at the old Salvation Army shop in Mill Road doze on sofas and chairs by the log fire or in sleeping bags in the eaves of the roof, and when they need a toilet they wander to the public lavatories just down the road. The squat is a protest to high-light the social depression, unemployment and lack of facilities for the young. Anarchist slogans have been painted boldly over the shop front replacing the old religious messages. 86 10 07a

1986 10 26

The Council is undertaking its biggest renovation to wipe out some of Cambridge's worst living conditions. After 15 years the damp-prone bathroom ‘pods’ stuck on to brick kitchens will be

removed from Darwin Drive, Akeman Street, Stretton Avenue and other streets. The modernisation programme will transform pokey 50-year-old homes into spacious, modern accommodation. There will be a new bedroom and bathroom, fully-fitted kitchen, central heating and new windows. Residents who move out for the 20 weeks of renovation can claim a disturbance allowance of several hundred pounds. 86 10 28a

1986 12 05

Cherry Hinton massive new development, 51a site [494.8.2]

1987

1987

Cambridge Housing Society had changed emphasis to single people [Misc.2.3]

1987

Firm quits as house prices soar - cannot recruit staff [NS.1.6]

1987

Rapidly rising costs caused by glut of building work hits projects [NS.1.11]

1987 03 23

A local building firm marked 30 years of existence in style with a special celebration. C.G. Whitmore & Son started in a garage at the bottom of its founder's garden. It is still firmly ensconced behind 159 Cherry Hinton Road, the terrace house that was home as well as business headquarters for company founder Cyril George Whitmore who died in 1980. In the early days they undertook mainly decorating jobs and domestic repairs. Now they will undertake any building project from house extension to house building. 87 03 23a

1987 03 24

Store giant Sainsbury's has announced plans for a superstore on the Arbury Camp site, creating more than 300 jobs. The supermarket could occupy a six-acre site closest to the interchange between the Northern Bypass and Histon Road. It would have a petrol station, coffee shop and parking for 500 cars. There would also be a park-and-ride site. This would be part of a mixed development of retail and research areas with a large ornamental lake. An Inspector has recommended that the site be taken out of the belt because it made a minimal contribution to the special character of Cambridge. But planners have so far disagreed 87 03 24

1987 08 10

The search for somewhere to live is becoming increasingly desperate. Yet more than 400 council homes in the region are standing empty. In Cambridge – where the council housing list tops 4,000 – one property in Fen Road has been empty for a year, another in Long Reach Road for nine months and one in Oak Tree Avenue for 20. At Girton four police houses have been empty for almost two years. Officials say some need repair, campaigners claim it is down to inefficiency. 87 08 10b

1987 10 20

Cambridge Housing Society celebrates diamond jubilee – 87 10 20a

1987 11 04

The family-run small works roofing and plumbing company of TR Freeman began trading from a terraced house in Histon Road in 1887. Their early customers were Cambridge colleges who demanded an exacting standard of work on superb buildings and companies in the Freeman Group still work for them, fulfilling the need for traditional skills using traditional materials. The firm has expanded into an internationally operating combine with a workforce of more than 300. Now celebrating its centenary, it is shortly to move into new corporate headquarters on the outskirts of Cambridge 87 11 04

1987 12 14

When it comes to housing, Cambridge is a victim of its own economic success. A traditional flow of brains drawn to the university has been bolstered by a growing influx of well-paid workers attracted by a booming high-tech sector resulting in rocketing property prices. More and more native Cambridge people are being squeezed out of the property market: 35 per cent of locals cannot afford to buy, with an average home costing £70,000 (about £161,000 today). Private housebuilders say they are hampered by the Green Belt while Councils are struggling against a Government keen on ending their roles in housing provision. There are 4,000 people on the city council waiting list, many of whom will never get a home 87 12 14b

1988

1988 02 04

Builders William Sindall have handed over the first new home in a new joint low-cost Cambridge housing scheme of 30 properties at Banff Close. The council provided the land for development and, in co-operation with Sindall, has made the houses available at prices well below market levels for people who would otherwise be on the council's waiting list. 88 02 04a

1988 02 25

An Australian economist predicts that by the year 2000 there would be large terraced houses in Cambridge costing £500,000. House prices can be expected to rise by at least eight per cent a year. The price of a terraced house north or east of the city centre has risen from £4,000 in 1970 to £35,000 in 1981 and is now (1988) £90,000. A flood of rich Londoners and foreigners will keep the heat on the housing market. There will be no hope for first-time buyers and pressure on the private sector could push rents up drastically forcing workers to live further from the city 88 02 25

1988 07 14

City housing "too costly" for top people [CEN 14.7.88]

1988 08 23

1st Cambridge Assured Properties introduce new housing scheme for more than 60 rented houses [CEN 23.8.88]

1988 09 09

Coulsons move from East Rd site, were established 1884 [CEN 9.9.88]

1988 10 22

Property price bubble burst, inundated with houses which do not sell [CEN 22.10.88]

1988 11 03

House price boom halts [CEN 3.11.88]

1988 11 04

Owlstone Croft to be used by Queens as hostel [CEN 4.11.88]

1988 11 16

Housing shortage means at least 2,000 houses are in multiple occupation [CEN 16.11.88]

1989

1989 01 19

House prices sliding backwards *¶*CEN 19.1.89

1989 02 09

Rent arrears rise "people in state of poverty in Cambridge" *¶*CEN 9.2.89

1989 03 30

Report shows house prices risen 73% in 2 years; 1st time buyers have no chance *φCEN 30.3.89*

1989 04 21

1 in 10 former council tenants being forced to sell up *φCEN 21.4.89*

1989 05 20

Homelessness increased by third in last 3 years, now 5,152 on council waiting list *φCEN 20.5.89*

1989 06 08

100 houses Brownlow Road approved on appeal *φCEN 8.6.89*

1989 09 19

Harold Ridgeon was one of Cambridge's most famous self-made men. From humble beginnings, he graduated from Cambridge University and began his own business in 1927 with a couple of men and an agreement to build a pair of houses in Perne Road. His success was such that in 1936 he was able to purchase William Sindall, an old-established Cambridge builder. During the war they took on responsibility for airfields and defence work and today the company has a turnover of £60 million a year. His other business interests included Abington Farms, W.J. Atkins meat producers, the Gonville Hotel and the Cambridge Building Society. He was also chairman of Cambridge City Football Club for many years. 89 09 19

1989 20 02

City to spend 2nd £M on subsidising houses for council workers *φCEN 2.10.89*

1989 11 22

Kerridge taken over by John Lelliott (Eastern) *φCEN 22.11.89*

1989 11 23

600 houses planned for allotments, Arbury *φCEN 23.11.89*

1989 12 22

Government clampdowns on local council spending mean no new Cambridge housing schemes will start next year, even though there are 4,000 people waiting for a home and the council has £39 million in the bank ready to spend. And council house maintenance and improvement schemes will also be cut back under rules that come in with the new poll tax. There are 100 homeless families for whom the council provides temporary accommodation. Nearly 30 are in private bed and breakfast accommodation for which the Government pays most 89 12 22

1990

1990 02 23

H.C. Moss, the building company, was started by Cliff Moss in 1962 with two employees; now it has 150 based at Cottenham, to which it moved in 1977. Much of their workload is construction projects of which the majority is housing estates. It also specialises in the renovation and conversion of period buildings into flats and apartments. One such project is the Riverside Mill at Godmanchester. Now they are working on a Maltings renovation at King's Lynn with an indoor waterfall and 19 luxury flats opposite Tattersalls in Newmarket. – 90 02 23b, c

1990 03 28

Cambridge's most luxurious flat is one of three penthouses in a new block called The Oast House at Pinehurst South off Grange Road. It has three bedrooms with a spiral staircase leading to a striking room like a Kentish oasthouse with a 25-foot ceiling and glass doors on to a roof garden. It will have all the luxury fittings expected including a video surveillance system. The Cambridge-based developer Nigel Grimshaw says "Nothing approaching it has ever been offered in Cambridge". The developers have produced a 52-page book listing its attributes 90 03 28a, b

1990 05 04

Harold Ridgeon leaves £12 m. Left school at 14 to become railway clerk, got to St Catharine's College, joined Cyril Ridgeon builders merchants then set up on his own. – 90 05 04

1990 06 29

Cambridge has more than 1,200 empty houses and flats while people desperate for homes – 90 06 29a

